

The Flat Hat

The twice-weekly student newspaper of the College of William and Mary ♦ Est. 1911

College raises \$7.8 million

BY AUSTIN WRIGHT
FLAT HAT NEWS EDITOR

The Campaign for William and Mary raised \$7.83 million in the fiscal quarter that began Jan. 1 and ended March 31, a drop from the record \$26 million raised in the quarter that ended Dec. 31, 2006.

The campaign, the largest in College history, surpassed its \$500 million goal in Dec.

THE TOP 10 DONATIONS TO THE CAMPAIGN FOR WILLIAM & MARY*

\$24,491,064
\$21,018,200
\$14,119,931
\$13,803,292
\$11,971,163
\$8,555,475
\$7,462,916
\$6,750,877
\$6,091,771
\$5,739,225

All of the gifts were given over a time period between 2001 and 2007.

*includes both outright and deferred gifts

the Wren Chapel.

The Office of University Development initially refused to release numbers for the quarter that ended March 31, but a Freedom of Information Act request yielded the data.

The College, however, would not release the total amount raised by the campaign.

Based on previously-released figures, The Flat Hat estimates that the campaign has raised a total \$498.5 million, meaning that if past trends hold, the campaign will meet the \$500 million goal by its June 30 end date.

The College also released a list of the largest contributions to the campaign. An unattributed \$24,491,064 donation tops the list.

The revoked pledge would have been the fifth- or sixth-largest donation to the campaign and the seventh- or eighth-largest donation in College history.

BEMUSED



JONATHAN SEIDEN ♦ THE FLAT HAT
Muse lead singer Matthew Bellamy performs for an almost sold-out audience at William and Mary Hall April 28 before headliner My Chemical Romance took the stage.

MCR falls ill after concert

Pennsylvania show canceled due to food poisoning

BY BRIAN MAHONEY
FLAT HAT NEWS EDITOR

Last weekend did not end romantically for rock band My Chemical Romance.

The group was forced to cancel their Sunday night show at the Bryce Jordan Center in University Park, Pennsylvania, after 16 crew and band members fell ill, according to the BJC's Director of Public Relations Bernie Punt.

Punt told Penn State's student newspaper, The Daily Collegian, that members from the opening band Muse also fell ill late Saturday night.

He said that both crew and band members were stricken by "severe food poisoning."

"We had a doctor in here all day," Punt told the Collegian Sunday. "They're not getting any better."

Punt also said that chicken

wraps served at the College Saturday had caused the illness. The Green Leaf, located on Scotland Street, was the sole caterer of the event, and they also served chicken wraps, Glen Gormley, the owner of the restaurant, said.

Gormley also said that no one from the band has contacted the Green Leaf, and that he could not confirm if the wraps had caused the illnesses.

"I have no idea, I'm not a doctor," Gormley said. "I know they had to cancel the show. No one contacted me about this."

Joe Lowder, the College's assistant director for student affairs, said that the band had informed him of the cancellation and the illnesses, but he could not confirm that they suffered food poisoning. He also noted that the band and crew members travel in a confined

See MCR page 5

Two SA revotes scheduled May 2

BY BRIAN MAHONEY
FLAT HAT NEWS EDITOR

A revote for the class of 2008's vice president for advocacy and treasurer will take place tomorrow, according to Student Assembly Election Commissioner Adam Boltik.

Juniors Matt Brown and Shariff Tanious will take part in a runoff for the position. The polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the Student Information Network's website, sin.wm.edu.

Brown was initially declared the winner by one vote after the March 29 election, but Tanious appealed the

decision, saying that junior Bryan Jones — who is currently interning in Florida — was unable to access SIN and vote. Jones voted through e-mail instead, which the commission initially rejected.

After a review board meeting, the commission decided to authorize the e-mailed vote, declaring a tie between Brown and Tanious and calling for a revote.

Treasurer candidate junior Laura Rogers also had her election overturned after Nick Faulkner, a junior, appealed the results, challenging the Election Commission's decision to use a paper ballot due to lack of registered candidates.

College toasts the Queen on Blowout

BY ANDY GARDEN
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

It seems that not even a visit from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II can derail that most sacred of College traditions — Blowout.

While classes may be cancelled for the Queen's May 4 visit, most students plan to celebrate Blowout Thursday, Friday or both days. As of last night, 568 students had joined the Facebook group "Friday is Still Blowout," while more than 250 students had joined groups advocating the celebration of Blowout on both Thursday and Friday.

Junior Chris St. Cyr, who, along with junior Will Ingersoll, created the "Friday is Still Blowout"

group, said that the Queen's visit did not change his Friday plans at all, although he now plans to celebrate on Thursday as well.

"It changed some peoples' plans because they have tests and stuff Thursday, but that's why we created the group," Cyr said. "I imagine [Thursday] night there'll be a big party. It'd be sweet if the Queen came out."

Other students are also planning Thursday and Friday celebrations.

"I'm going to welcome [the Queen] in style by getting completely wasted," one freshman, who requested to remain anonymous, told The Flat Hat. She went on to say that while she was excited to see the



Queen Elizabeth II

COURTESY ♦ NEW ZEALAND CROWN

See TOAST page 5

Students lobby College to go green

BY CHASE JOHNSON
FLAT HAT EXECUTIVE EDITOR

For the second time in the past year, the College's administration will receive a proposal aimed at making the school more environmentally friendly.

Three students at the College currently taking Professor Maria Ivanova's graduate seminar on climate change will present their proposal to College President Gene Nichol and Vice President for Administration Anna Martin tomorrow morning after presenting to Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler Monday. They will encourage Nichol to pledge to make the College carbon neutral by signing the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment.

The proposal, researched and written under Ivanova's guidance by senior David Sievers and graduate students Massey Whorley and Kristen McCann, builds upon a

proposal delivered to College administrators by Professor Timmons Roberts' spring 2006 environmental sociology class.

Whorley, who took Roberts' class last spring as a senior, said that the new proposal addresses the issue from more than just a cost and benefit analysis, which is what Roberts' class prepared.

"They attacked it purely from [the angle of] 'This makes business sense. You invest here, you get these returns, it pays off,'" he said. "It didn't exactly sink in. We have incorporated the cost-benefit analysis, but we also take a more ethically based approach. ... This is less about what we should do, and more about what we have to do."

Carbon neutrality, Ivanova said, is not a new trend.

"The Queen is coming Friday, and the Queen has officially announced that her whole trip to the United States is carbon neutral. She has also committed to making her offices in the Palace carbon neu-

tral by 2012, so it's a pretty serious commitment. We think it would be a very appropriate time for the president to also commit and sign the PCC before or on Friday."

The proposal suggests achieving carbon neutrality through efforts other than carbon credits, and the focus of the proposal is cutting back on emissions. "Our general approach is that we're going to make

every effort to reduce emissions, improve efficiency and, eventually, purchase clean energy and clean electricity," Whorley said. "Offsets are pretty much our last option. They are probably the easiest thing to do, but they don't cut to the core of the issue."

The PCC has three sections that

See LOBBY page 3



ALEX HAGLUND ♦ THE FLAT HAT
Students discuss carbon neutrality with Vice President Sam Sadler.

NEWSINSIGHT

The Flat Hat

‘Stabilitas et Fides’

25 Campus Center, The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA. 23185
Editorial Dept. (757) 221-3281 • Advertising Dept. (757) 221-3283 • Fax (757) 221-3242

The Flat Hat — editor@flathatnews.com
News — news@flathatnews.com • Variety — variety@flathatnews.com • Sports — sports@flathatnews.com
Reviews — reviews@flathatnews.com • Opinions — opinions@flathatnews.com
Advertising — ads@flathatnews.com

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Corrections

In the April 27 edition of The Flat Hat, the article “Meese on shortlist for federal judgeship” incorrectly stated that Law Professor Alan Meese was recommended for a federal judgeship by Senators John Warner and Jim Webb. He was actually recommended by two bar associations in Virginia.


Weather

Tuesday




High 88°
Low 68°

Wednesday



High 79°
Low 54°

Thursday



High 75°
Low 51°

Source: www.weather.com

Quote of the Week

“Like the couple who sat down next to me and said, ‘Hey you’re the sex columnist, right? We need your help.’ Awkward.”
— Senior Kate Pregman on the influence of her sex column
See **SEX COLUMN** page 8

News in Brief

Kimball will premiere NOVA documentary tonight

The Kimball Theatre on Duke of Gloucester St. is holding the premiere of the NOVA/PBS documentary “Pocahontas Revealed” tonight. The film records the recent archeological digs of Werowocomoco and the English settlement at Jamestown, according to William and Mary News.

Several faculty members and students assisted in production, and the film features Martin Gallivan and William Kelso of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, William and Mary News reported.

— by Brian Mahoney

College Delly will not renew liquor license

The College Delly is not renewing its liquor license, although it is still allowed to sell liquor until June 1. The Delly hosted a promotional evening to sell its liquor April 30, and the success of that event will determine if there will be liquor to sell again before closing.

The College Delly is keeping its Beer and Wine license, which is unrelated to a liquor license.

A liquor license costs \$1,000, and the owners did not think there would be a sufficient fiscal benefit to selling liquor in the last month of its existence. The Delly plans to close its doors in July or August.

— by Alexandra Cochrane

By the Numbers

Bus line use

\$43.21

The cost per student of getting free access to the bus lines. The money also pays to have Green line busses run in convenient places for students.

\$3.12

The amount the college paid last year per ride taken by students or staff.

77 percent

The percent of student and faculty bus rides taken on the Green line. Red line use makes up a large portion of the remaining 23%, according

5 percent

The increase in student and staff use of non-Green line busses over the last two years.

— by Maxim Lott



COURTESY PHOTO • WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

In the wake of the recent tragedy, Tech students have a flexible exam schedule.

BEYOND THE BURG

Tech students have flexible exam schedule

By ALINA TODOR
THE FLAT HAT

Virginia Tech students returned to class Monday, April 23, a full week after the tragic shootings in Norris Hall April 16.

During the one week suspension of class, the Virginia Tech administration devised a new exam policy that would help students and faculty end the semester with a fair grading system while they continue to cope with the trauma of the campus tragedy.

The new exam policy was sent out to all students in an e-mail from University Provost Mark McNamee on April 20.

“We are providing you, the students, with the ability to make choices from multiple options,” the message read.

“Your welfare is a high priority for us,” McNamee emphasized in his email.

The policy enables students to choose from three options for each individual class.

The students can either choose to be graded based on materials submitted before April 16, on that material plus any other assignments the students wished to submit, or on all of the material that would have been regularly submitted in the course.

The campus withdrawal policy was also extended to grant the students an unlimited number of withdrawal hours.

Furthermore, a fourth option was extended to students in the College of Engineering, who can choose to change any letter grade to pass/fail.

“Flexibility will be the guiding principle,” McNamee stated in an e-mail to all Virginia Tech students.

Other changes on campus during the last week of classes included a drastic increase in police presence and a lingering media presence, which the students were warned about in an e-mail from Michael Deisenroth, the acting associate dean for Academic Affairs.

“When the media and the police presence are long gone, the Hokies will still be here,” Deisenroth said.

Commencement festivities were not canceled due to the Friday shootings. The events are still scheduled to be held May 11.

All of the shooting victims will receive honorary degrees.

“After this traumatic experience, it will be difficult to resume our lives and duties,” Virginia Tech President Charles Steger wrote in an e-mail to the students last week. “By working together with the spirit and bond strengthened by this tragedy, we will move forward in a way that will honor the memory of those we have lost.”

This week in Flat Hat history

1929

The College ended its version of freshmen rules. The tribunal enforcing the rules decided that the freshmen would no longer be subject to curfew and other regulations during finals. At the time, the tribunal had not decided whether or not the freshman rules would be regulated or even enforced the following year. On the night rules were to end, tribunal officials expected a party or even a “small riot.”

1948

The College’s enforcement of a new no smoking rule went into effect. Smoking, eating and drinking soft drinks were no longer allowed in teaching classrooms. Students could engage in these activities in study hall rooms and where permitted by the instructor. Smoking would also be allowed during midterm and final exams.

1973

College professor Vernon Edmonds was reprimanded by the sociology department after being accused by four black students of racism after they received grades of “No Credit” in his social problems course. The department reprimanded him for “alleged vagueness and selectivity concerning grading criteria,” but did not specifically mention the issue of discrimination.

1982

A campus police car struck a student in the Ewell parking lot. The officer involved in the incident was responding to a false burglar alarm set off in Ewell. The student was sent to Williamsburg Community Hospital and released. He suffered no injuries.

— compiled by Morgan Figa

STREET BEAT

When are you going to celebrate Blowout?



Thursday because I have to be in court for a speeding ticket in North Carolina on Friday.

Lucy Midelfort, freshman



We’re celebrating both days.

Emily Law, freshman



Friday, only if it’s with the Queen.

John Donehey, freshman



Wednesday.

Vandhana Rao, senior

— photos and interviews by Virginia Newton

CITY POLICE BEAT

April 20 to April 25

Friday, April 20 — An unidentified minor was charged with domestic assault and battery at 500 Roycroft Street. **1**

— A 47-year-old black female was arrested at 500 Merrimac Trail and charged with assault and attempt to burn. **2**

— A 22-year-old white female was arrested at 400 Capitol Landing Road and charged with embezzlement. **3**

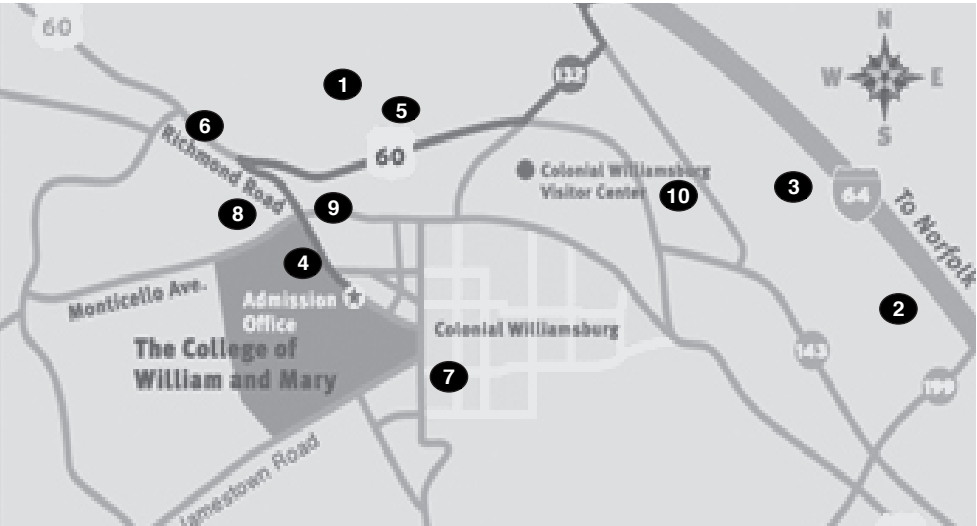
Sunday, April 21 — A 24-year-old black male was arrested at 100 Matoaka Court and charged with attempted capital murder, use of a firearm, use of a concealed weapon, having a stolen weapon and driving under a suspended license. **4**

— An unidentified individual was arrested at 300 Dunning Street and charged with disorderly conduct, being drunk in public, failure to obey lawful order and trespassing. The individual was later charged with breaking and entering and assault and battery. **5**

Sunday, April 22 — An unidentified black male was arrested at the IHOP on Richmond Road and charged with petit larceny. **6**

— A 24-year-old white male was arrested at 2100 South Henry Street and charged with driving under the influence and refusal to submit to arrest. **7**

Monday, April 23 — An unidentified individual was arrested at 1300 Mt. Vernon Road and charged with vandalism. Police reported



that a glass door was damaged. **8**

Tuesday, April 24 — A 32-year-old white male was arrested at 300 Richmond Road and charged with being drunk in public and trespassing. **6**

— A 29-year-old white male was arrested at 200 Armistead Avenue and charged with driving under the influence and failure to stop at a stop sign. The individual was a habitual offender and was also charged for violating his parole. **9**

— An unidentified male was arrested at 200 Richmond Road and charged with larceny.

Officers reported that he stole golf clubs and a golf bag. **6**

Wednesday, April 25 — An unidentified individual was arrested at 200 Merrimac Trail and charged with larceny of a black and gray Yamaha Raptor ATV. **2**

— A 27-year-old black male was arrested at the corner of Page and Second Street and had his driver’s license revoked. An officer at the scene reported that this was his second time his license was revoked. **10**

—By Morgan Figa

Under the

MICROSCOPE

◆ CHESAPEAKE BAY RECEIVES “D” MINUS ON HEALTH REPORT CARD

By ETHAN THEUERKAUF
FLAT HAT SCIENCE COLUMNIST

A great blue heron swoops down and grabs a mummichog out of a salt marsh. An old deadrise workboat trolls into a marina after a long day of pulling crab pots. A school of menhaden float quietly on the top of water, suffocated by anoxic (oxygen-poor) conditions that have struck the Chesapeake Bay.

This scene, while fictitious, is demonstrative of the beauty and tragedy that the bay holds.

The livelihood and majesty of the bay is in danger as rising coastal populations and pollution continue to degrade its waterways.

In recent reports by the Chesapeake Bay Program and the University of Maryland’s Center for Environmental Science, the health of the bay is described as dismal and has been given a grade of D- by the University of Maryland.

There were certain areas that did better than others, including the upper and lower portions of the bay, but as a whole, the health of the bay is a serious concern.

“None of it is in very good shape. 2006 wasn’t a particularly good year for the bay,” Bill Dennison of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science said.

The University of Maryland’s report, entitled “Chesapeake Ecocheck,” gave the bay a grade of D- based on a poor water quality index, poor biotic index and extreme weather.

The water quality index in the bay was especially low due to low chlorophyll A concentrations and poor water clarity caused by very turbid water, meaning that the water was laden with suspended particles of mud and sediments.

However, there were high levels of dissolved oxygen in most parts of the bay except in the deeper channels, where dissolved oxygen is naturally lower.

Poor phytoplankton communities and a dramatic reduction in bay grasses gave the bay a poor biotic index.

The benthic, or bottom-dwelling, communities, such as clams and worms, were in very poor condition due to low dissolved oxygen levels and abundant suspended particles.

The area of the bay that is covered with submerged aquatic vegetation has decreased through-

out most regions. There has been some resurgence in the Upper Bay.

Extreme weather played both a positive and negative role in the health of the bay in 2006.

Average freshwater flows were around what is expected.

However, a very dry spring followed by an intense summer rain event threw the natural system out of equilibrium. These events caused many temporary, negative effects for habitats and organisms.

Interestingly, the remnants of Hurricane Ernesto actually helped the Chesapeake Bay by ending a harmful algal bloom in the Potomac River caused by eutrophication, or nutrient enrichment.

The mixing and cooling reduced thermal stress on bay grasses and increased dissolved oxygen levels in bottom waters.

The James River received one of the better scores in the report. It was given a C- for overall health.

It also received a C for water quality and habitat health because of a high water quality index and strong dissolved oxygen levels, but earned a D for the biotic index because of a very poor phytoplankton community and a moderate benthic community.

The Chesapeake Bay Program’s report on the bay included a section on the restoration efforts that are occurring.

There have been far-reaching efforts to decrease pollution, which are aimed at doing what is necessary to bring the bay off of the Environmental Protection Agency’s “impaired waters” list.

It is estimated that approximately half of the pollution efforts needed have been undertaken in the past two decades.

Other goals are aimed at restoring habitats, managing fisheries, protecting watersheds and fostering stewardship of the bay. Environmentalists hope to educate and recruit local citizens for this effort.

A management policy that involves the interacting relationship between different species and their interaction with the environment is also being implemented.

Efforts like these and others are what is needed to restore the Chesapeake Bay to the healthy and flourishing body of water that it once was.

The future of the bay as a habitat for organisms, a source of livelihood for watermen and a playground for boaters, swimmers and other recreational users is at stake if the problems of the bay are not adequately addressed and corrected.

Students lobby College to go green

LOBBY from page 1

lay out how colleges and universities can achieve carbon neutrality. The first is organizational. The student proposal advocates the creation of an Office of Sustainability to oversee environmentally friendly development on campus. Section two recommends tangible projects that include both individuals and the College as a whole. Section three deals with creating a timetable.

One of the problems that Ivanova’s students cannot address fully is how to get students involved. “What we don’t really know is what students would like to see in the curriculum or in college life to respond to environmental issues,” Ivanova said. “Let’s face it, William and Mary is absolutely not on the cutting edge of campus sustainability or environmental offerings in the curriculum. But that doesn’t mean we can’t get there. That’s where groups like SEAC are so helpful.”

Whorley said taking action is not as hard as people think. “It’s about changing behavior and about changing attitudes,” he said. Whorley, who Ivanova jokingly called a “born-again environmentalist,” may be the prime example. “When I started this class in August, I didn’t know anything about the environment,” he said. “Now, I bike to school every time I can.”

Ivanova and her students are optimistic about their proposal, especially after their meeting with Sadler. “He

[Sadler] saw right through to the main purpose of our endeavor. The economic case has been made, and miraculously, it doesn’t stick because people are not just rational actors. People act in what they believe is right. He said, ‘You are going to institutionalize environmental responsibility and sustainability into the mission of the College,’ and that’s exactly how we approached it.”

Nichol has until June 1 to sign the PCC to become a charter member, and the group is becoming crowded. “Everyday there are more signatories,” Sievers said. “The question is are we going to be pulled into this kicking or are we going to be setting the standard?”

While the proposal is aimed at getting the College committed to carbon neutrality, the group hopes the College will also take up a leadership role to encourage schools that do not have the resources of a Yale University or Cornell University to take up the cause as well.

Sievers pointed out that for the younger generation, the environment is an issue with wide support. “It’s not a partisan issue for most of our generation. Last year, there was a CBS/MTV poll that showed that 81 percent of people our age wanted immediate action on climate change.”

But the effort must start locally.

“We can be the bridge between local and global, red and blue,” Ivanova said.

“And green and gold,” Sievers added.

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Monroe program has lasting effects

By ALEX GUILLÉN
FLAT HAT ASSOC. REVIEWS EDITOR

Although most people have heard of Monroe scholars, many outside of the program are unsure as to what it entails.

Monroe Scholars represent the top of their class. Requirements for Monroe scholarships for entering freshman include high GPA and standardized test scores.

“[Scholars must also have] concern for community, intellectual depth, curiosity and demonstrated devotion to learning for learning’s sake,” the website of the Charles Center, which regulates the program, says.

Those selected as Monroe scholars have the option to live in Monroe Hall for their freshman year and to register early for classes their first semester. They also are expected to complete a research project the summer after their freshman year. They are given a \$1,000 grant for the projects, which vary depending on their personal interests.

“I’m going to compare Samurai films and the classic American Western film,” freshman Mike Erickson said. “[The project] isn’t just an excuse to watch movies,” the potential film studies major added.

Freshman Dan Villarreal said that he will be visiting drugstores in New York City and interviewing clerks, “to determine the association between certain speech features and the prestige of the neighborhood.”

Monroe scholars also are expected to conduct research after their freshman year. Senior John Bell said that for his freshman project he purchased a sitar and studied Hindustani classical music. His upperclass grant was used for his history honors thesis about authenticity in music subculture.

“I wrote a paper analyzing the interplay between national and international level governments,” senior Ryan Scofield said. He added that he got to do hands-on work in Washington, D.C., with Virginia Sen. John Warner and with the NATO in Belgium.

Junior Devin DeBacker’s upperclass project involves, “revisiting Machiavelli’s ‘The Discourse’ in its original Italian and trying to consistently resolve it with his ‘The Prince,’ as the former advocates a republican government and the latter ... a totalitarian government.” DeBacker has also received the Batten Pre-Honors Research Grant from the Charles Center, an award which he credits in part to his Monroe connections.

According to many Monroe scholars, however, most of the time there is little work, if any, involved.

“Drawing up a proposal for my sum-

mer project is the only thing I’ve actually done,” Erickson said. “There are Monroe lunches, but I haven’t attended any.”

Freshman Brad Akin agrees.

“It’s no more [work] than you want it to be,” Akin said. “I have yet to be mandated to do anything as a Monroe scholar. All of the programs are optional. I think you could even opt not to use your research money, if you wanted to.”

Senior Ryan Scofield said his experience was similar to this year’s Monroes’.

“I know people who put a lot of work into their summer research, conducting a post-freshman year project as well,” Scofield said. “I know others who didn’t put much work into it at all, aside from the mandated time during the actual summer.”

Many Monroe scholars feel they have a stigma of being nerdy or receiving special treatment.

“Contrary to what some may believe, it’s not different than being any other student,” Villarreal said.

Others believe there is a stereotypical social stigma that comes with being a Monroe.

“It’s funny because most people do not realize I am in the program, so they will occasionally make comments about it,” freshman Eric Newman, who opted to live in Fauquier instead of Monroe, said. “Just stuff like, ‘those smart kids are ruining my curve’ or ‘[they’re] always working’ or something. Depending on who I am around, it is a positive thing or a negative thing.”

Despite the stereotype, Monroe scholars believe they know how to have a good time.

“My favorite Monroe scholars-related memory would have to be the aggregate sum of our freshman hall experiences,” Scofield said. “There were ‘block parties’ in the lobby, dance parties in the first floor bathroom, bets placed on Yankees-Red Sox series, and lots more. I had a very memorable freshman year with those people.”

Bell described the block parties. “We typically just sat around, listened to music, and ate snack mix. It was very low-key.” He also described the antics of fellow scholar Scofield.

“[His] exploits are numerous,” he said. “He drank a gallon of milk in under an hour, he went to Wawa wearing only a Speedo, boots and a cowboy hat [and] he frequently inflated condoms over his head. I could go on and on.”

For DeBacker, his story — “the classic Monroe story” — is one of love. He decided to live in Monroe Hall his freshman year.

“During that time I casually met Rachel Florek, a non-Monroe who was a gentle

combination of sweet and firecracker. Come sophomore year, I’m sitting in my dorm room in Madison basement, and out of nowhere Rachel walked in. It turned out she was trying to look at how someone else arranged their wardrobes, and she recognized me from Monroe. A year and a half ago, we started dating, and now she’s my soon-to-be fiancée. It’s funny how something as little as choosing to live in Monroe affects the rest of your life — or should I say, lives.”

According to many “Monrovians,” the scholarship provided an extra incentive to attend the College but only sometimes was it the deciding factor.

“The College as a whole impressed me, and I would probably be here as a non-Monroe,” Belanger said. “There are enough research opportunities available to the whole College body that one program wouldn’t have made or broken my decision.”

For others, Monroe was just an added bonus.

“I received over \$500,000 in grants and scholarships to attend a number of universities, but realized that none of those universities offered me a program where I could further my academic interests and challenge myself with new scholastic opportunities,” DeBacker said. “William and Mary’s Monroe Scholars program provided me with those opportunities.”

For Monroe Scholars, the associated opportunities sometimes have even more value than the research grants. For Scofield, networking with fellow scholars was a major plus.

“It was wonderful being a Monroe Scholar. Aside from the fact that it enabled me to spend a summer abroad in Europe traveling and learning a lot, it was great to be able to live in Monroe and develop relationships with all of the other [students] who lived there. We became really close as a group, and we still are today,” he said.

Other students had similar stories.

“Being a Monroe Scholar allowed me to pursue some academic interests [and] curiosities, and I am grateful to the Charles Center for providing me the funds to make those inquiries. I also got to live in Monroe Hall, which was great, and I’ve enjoyed the occasional Monroe lunch,” Bell said. “Many schools’ honors programs are more in the ivory tower mold, and I didn’t want something like that.”

After graduation, Bell plans on working with Teach For America, teaching high school social studies in rural North Carolina. Scofield plans on attending Duke Law School.

The students all agreed Monroe was a positive experience they would take part in again.

Green line usage declines

Statistics show students, staff take half as many rides per year as two years ago

By MAXIM LOTT
FLAT HAT ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

Student and staff use of the Green line bus route, which primarily serves the College, has fallen over the last two years, according to data obtained by The Flat Hat from the College Parking and Transportation Office.

118,918 rides were taken on the Green line from August to March during the 2004-2005 academic year, but that fell to 97,097 during the same period in 2005-2006. This year 62,581 rides have been taken, barely half the number from two years ago.

“One big factor was the elimination of the Dillard Complex ... another is the construction of the Jamestown dorms,” Bill Horacio III, Parking and Transportation Manager at the College, said.

The Dillard complex, which used to house 289 largely bus-dependent students, was closed at the end of last year. Horatio said that the construction of Jamestown also brought many upperclassmen to a central location, where riding the bus was not necessary.

Three bus drivers who were interviewed said that they felt the decision to run both busses in one direction was also causing the decline.

Until this year, the busses ran in opposite directions.

“I’m pretty sure that if the busses went both ways, you’d start seeing people riding them more,” Willie Hirschberg, who drives weekend nights, said. “I think it should go both ways. I think I should do one way for half hour, then turn around and do another half hour that way.”

Horatio said that his office had looked into the issue. While admitting the possibility that going just both ways turned away riders, he said that his office con-

cluded that going just one way was beneficial.

“If we had the busses run both ways, the wait time would have to be half an hour at some stops,” Horatio said. “Running the busses one way, students only have to wait 15 minutes at any stop. We decided to reduce the time that any student would have to spend waiting at a stop.”

Because Dillard was eliminated the same time as the one-way policy began, it is hard to tell which is more responsible for the drop in use. There has been no similar drop in student and staff use of the other bus lines. Hirschberg said that, in the past, many of his riders had gone to or from Dillard, but probably not most of them.

Hirschberg also said that on his weekend night shifts he could sometimes make his rounds 5 or 6 times without one person getting on the bus.

He speculated about the drop in people taking the bus to the Delis. “It’s weird; it’s a like new generation ... like all the parties graduated.”

Horatio said that a lack of information might be the problem.

“One thing that continually amazes me is that many students I talk to, including students who have had their license or parking privileges revoked, don’t know that they can ride the busses for free.”

He added that he hoped more people would use the busses as word becomes more widespread.

The college currently pays \$302,959 to run the Green line and to get free access to the other lines.

Last year, the cost to the college of each ride taken was \$3.12.

County Williamsburg Area Transport officials referred all questions to officials at the College who make the decisions about the Green line and its route.

Local sees history repeat

By JAMES DAMON
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

Queen Elizabeth II who? College Shop employee Frances Moore has lived in Williamsburg since before Elizabeth II took the throne. Williamsburg has since expanded, but that’s okay with Moore. Virginia’s colonial capital remains true to its origins.

Moore, who turned 83 this year, has worked at the College Shop for the past 48 years. Over time, Williamsburg has literally changed before her eyes. “It was a small town,” she said. “It’s just not a small town anymore.”

“The surrounding area, which used to be nothing, is built up now,” she said. “Condominiums, motels, hotels. But there are so many people that really like the atmosphere of Williamsburg that they return and make their home here,” she said.

Still, Moore has grown to accept the change of scenery. Gregarious by nature, she loves meeting people. Those she has met over the years are “very interesting people.” Moore appreciates Williamsburg’s expansion because of the new business and attractions that it brings.

“I don’t think that has hurt Williamsburg,” she said. “I think that has helped it.”

Moore has come into contact with people from all over the world during her time at the College Shop. She owns a business card signed by John Wayne, who once visited the store. And while the rest of Williamsburg anticipates the arrival of Elizabeth, that’s an old shoe to Moore.

“I saw the Queen and her husband when they were here in 1957. They rode the carriage right down DoG Street. I was standing on the street very close to her, which was very exciting. I’m hoping to get to see her again. I’m not sure if I will or not with so many people, but it’s exciting,” she said. “I was impressed with the Queen Mother, too. She was so beautiful. Her skin was not even a blemish. Her skin was so beautiful.”

At 83, Moore has no plans to leave Williamsburg in the near future. For now, she will continue to work at the College Shop and travel, a pastime she enjoys with her spouse. She looks forward to meeting more people.

“I left Williamsburg for three years. When I came back, I said I’m never leaving again. I like it because it’s centrally located. I like the people in this area. But after I came back, I said I might go on a trip but I’ll never go again,” she said. “I just always liked the atmosphere of Williamsburg. I like working in the public.”



ALEX HAGLUND • THE FLAT HAT
College Shop employee Frances Moore saw the Queen in Williamsburg in 1957.

Professor indicted for homicide

Spanish judge charges DeCamp with homicide, war crimes

By ANGELA COTA
FLAT HAT ASSOC. NEWS EDITOR

Adjunct Math Professor and Lieutenant Colonel Philip DeCamp was charged last week in the death of Spanish journalist Jose Couso, who died in 2003 in Iraq.

A Spanish judge indicted DeCamp along with two other U.S. soldiers, Sgt. Shawn Gibson and Capt. Philip Wolford.

They were charged with homicide and “a crime against the international community,” according to the Daily Press.

During street fighting in Baghdad, the soldiers fired a tank shell at the Palestine Hotel, in which about 100 journalists were staying, including Couso, who was a cameraman for Spanish TV network Telecinco.

As commander of their unit, the 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, DeCamp gave his companions Gibson and Wolford the order to fire the tanks.

DeCamp and his companions have been issued several arrest warrants previously by Judge Santiago Pedraz.

DeCamp was hired at the College in 2005 as the Director of Military Science



FILE PHOTO • THE FLAT HAT
Adjunct Math Professor Philip DeCamp ordered a firing on a hotel, killing a Spanish journalist.

after he retired from the Army.

He did not teach this semester, but is teaching in the fall. The last class he taught was in the fall of 2006.

Nine professors to retire

By NIK BELANGER
THE FLAT HAT

The end of the 2006-2007 year will mark a milestone for more than just the College’s graduating class.

Nine professors from several departments have reached retirement. Among them is Chancellor Professor of Physics Robert Welsh. With almost 44 years under his belt at the College, Welsh is currently the longest-serving active faculty member.

“My favorite part of W&M has been the highly motivated and well-prepared

students I have had the privilege to teach,” Welsh said.

Upon retirement, he plans to continue “collecting and studying old cipher and code devices and traveling with [his] wife and two young daughters, ages 8 and 11.”

The full list of retiring professors recognized for their years of dedication to the students of the College include: Ruth Beck, Biology; Sharton Broadwater, Biology; Wagih Dafashy, Business Administration; Alan Fuchs, Philosophy; Leonard Haas, Marine Science; John Kane, Physics; Joseph Scott, Biology; Robert Welsh, Physics; Richard Williamson, Law.

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Economics professor sees financial hope in dope

College economics professor Carl Moody endorsed a report advocating the legalization of marijuana

By KARA STARR
FLAT HAT ASSOC. NEWS EDITOR

College economics professor Carl Moody has endorsed a report advocating the legalization of marijuana, which, according to research conducted by a Harvard University professor, would create savings and tax revenues resulting in a net gain of approximately \$10 to \$14 billion annually.

Harvard economics professor Jeffrey Miron’s report, published in June 2005, is called “The Budgetary Implications of Marijuana Prohibition,” and has garnered the support of over 530 economists from colleges and universities across the nation.

Focusing on federal budgets, Miron’s report notes that “prohibition entails direct enforcement costs and prevents taxation of marijuana production and sale.”

Moody said he decided to express his support for the matter because he has long agreed with Miron’s argument, despite the controversy surrounding the issue.

“It just makes so much sense. I’ve done lots of research, never published it, but I looked into it, and the cost of drug prohibition is just enormous,” Moody said in a phone interview. “It is controversial, but look who else supports it. I’m with Nobel Laureate winners. If [Nobel Laureate recipients Dr.] Milton Friedman and [Dr.] Vernon Smith can take the heat, so can I. It’s just so sensible, why wouldn’t people agree?”

According to the report, lifting prohibition and allowing for the taxation of marijuana would save the government approximately \$7.7 billion per year in enforcement costs.

Of these savings, \$5.3 billion would be accumulated at the state and local levels from such expenditures and \$2.4 billion at the federal level.

In Virginia, the police, judicial and corrections budget combined is \$2,935 million, of which \$99.46 million is attributed to expenditures related to marijuana prohibition, the report says.

In addition to these savings, the report says that the tax revenue gains would be considerable.

Depending on the method of taxation, anywhere between \$2.4 billion (if marijuana were taxed like an ordinary product) and \$6.2 billion

(if it were taxed like alcohol or tobacco) would be accrued annually.

Many of the endorsers of the report, however, think that the economics are only part of the problem about marijuana prohibition.

Moody feels that the social impacts of lifting prohibition would all be positive.

“It’s an unnecessary infringement on rights as a person and the right to do what you want with your body. It’s not anybody else’s body; it’s not the government’s. I support [legalization] on philosophical grounds,” he said.

His support for the issue of legalization also stems from his view of the negative impacts of prohibition on society and individual freedoms.

“Prohibition leads to empowerment of the law enforcement and police side of government. We’re not a police state, but if you stop people from doing what they want, it reduces freedom overall. [In situations like this,] police are forced to go undercover or rely on snitches or break into houses [to seek out the criminals.] If prohibition were lifted, there would be a significant shift of usage from alcohol to marijuana, and also from more intense drugs to marijuana, which [in comparison] is pharmacologically mild,” Moody said.

Prohibition, in Moody’s opinion, is the reason that harder drugs have become more popular.

“[During prohibition in the 1920s,] beer wasn’t smuggled in, they took in hard alcohol. Essentially the same thing holds true now. Dangerous designer drugs are popular because they’re easier to smuggle in. You can’t fly a plane of marijuana leaves,” Moody said.

The report has been summarized in a letter to President George W. Bush, requesting “an open and honest debate about marijuana prohibition” and advocating reform that would allow a system of regulation and taxation similar to that used for the distribution and sale of alcoholic beverages.

“I don’t expect significant movement [to change marijuana policy as a result of] the report,” Moody said.

“This is essentially one drop in a Chinese water torture method to change [the current] policy. Our one drop says ‘your policy is stupid.’ Sooner or later, reason will win out.”

A toast to the Queen on Blowout

TOAST from page 1

Queen, the only effect Her Majesty’s visit would have on her Blowout plans would be a more dignified drinking manner.

Another freshman, who also requested to remain anonymous, said that he planned on getting a free sobriety T-shirt for blowing a 0.0, then going out to party.

He later conceded that he might not be able to hold out until the breathalyzer event, which begins at 9 p.m. at the University Center Ter-

race Thursday.

In an e-mail written April 27, Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler acknowledged potential concerns about the Queen’s visit affecting Blowout.

“Many of you have written to express concern that moving the last day of classes for this semester to Thursday would ruin traditions you have come to enjoy — bell ringing for seniors, merriment in the Sunken Garden and elsewhere, blowing a Double 0, etc. Let me reassure you that isn’t the case. Everything is

just being moved up a day.”

“You will have your day. That’s important. And Friday will belong to the Queen for her visit,” he added.

Blowout revelers might choose to celebrate both days but should be forewarned: the Queen’s visit means security will be very tight over the traditional Blowout period, and the Secret Service will be on campus.

However, the general sentiment is that this probably won’t stop many parties, as Blowout is not generally characterized by a great deal of caution.

MCR falls ill, cancels concert

MCR from page 1

tour bus, which is prone to viruses and contagious diseases.

Lowder said that both the band and crew ate other food on Saturday, including pizza and a \$200 order of Hooters.

He said that contacted an epidemiologist after hearing of the illnesses, and was informed that many factors could have caused sickness, including the Norovirus.

The Norovirus, which is highly contagious and causes flu-like symptoms, infected dozens of College students last October.

“Food poisoning, from what [doctors] say, is very hard to pinpoint,” Lowder said.”

Lowder noted that the band and crew members travel in a confined tour bus, which is prone to viruses and contagious diseases.

No students reported any illnesses. The Green Leafe catered only to the bands and their crew.

According to the BJC’s blog on community.centredaily.com, stage crews were assembling sound and lighting when they were informed of the band’s illness.

“We received word that several of the band members of My Chemi-

cal Romance and Muse had taken ill from some food they had eaten hours earlier in Williamsburg, VA,” the blog said.

“Fans from around the northeast were already in line ... waiting anxiously for their favorite band to take the stage.”

The blog also said that a promoter of the concert had e-mailed the crew of the BJC thanking them for their cooperation and assistance, specifically that of Dr. Doug Aukerman, a physician at Penn State.

The promoter said that Aukerman was “in effect, running triage” at the venue.

Commencement seats in demand

By JOSH BARR
THE FLAT HAT

If you’re hoping to go to the Commencement ceremonies this May, you are likely out of luck. According to the College, Commencement tickets will not be available to the general public.

Only graduating students will be able to obtain tickets. The College announced that each degree candidate is entitled to four tickets. Some students who filled out an online form were able to get a fifth ticket.

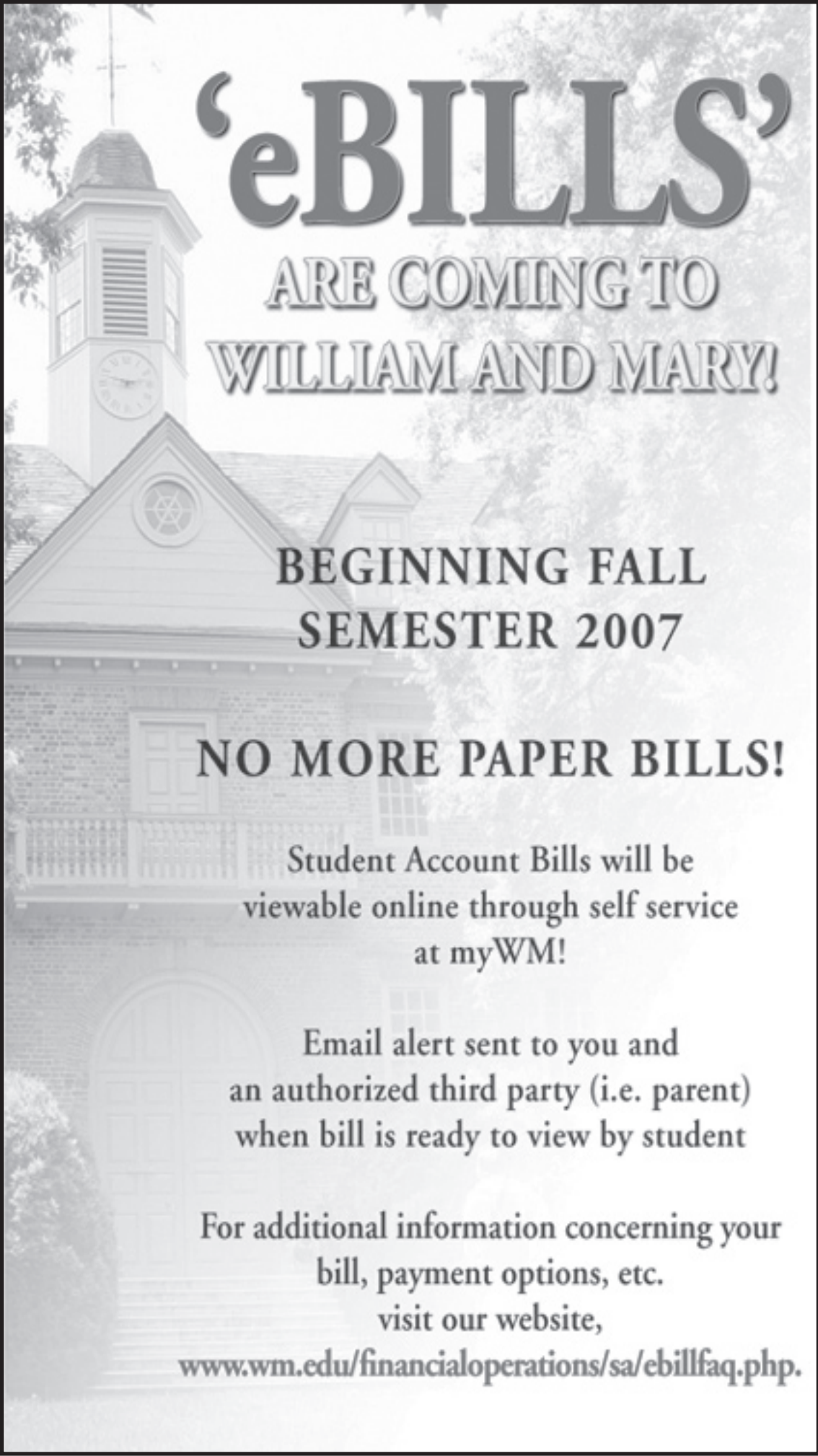
Because of the size of this year’s graduating class, the College needed to put in place these strict limits for guest tickets for the main Commencement exercises in William and Mary Hall.

With the high demand for tickets anticipated again this year, the Commencement Committee reminded students that the selling of tickets is strictly prohibited. However, the College does not restrict students from giving excess tickets to their classmates.

After speaking with several graduating students, it seems that the rule is largely respected. Most who requested a fifth ticket were allowed. However, most are struggling to get tickets beyond the mandatory maximum.

For the students who cannot secure enough Commencement tickets, the College encourages them to invite those unable to attend the main ceremony to meet them at the diploma presentation program that follows.

Most of the other activities on Commencement weekend are completely open to the public.



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STAFF EDITORIAL

Cheers and jeers

Today marks the last time that The Flat Hat will print this academic year. Before you start breaking down in tears or celebrating in various ways, we’ve got some last-minute reflections for you. This year has seen a number of interesting changes and events take place, and we’ve been right here throughout. Take a look at our picks for the best and worst moments of the past academic year.

Cheers to President Nichol for his charisma and genuinely eloquent voice, particularly in offering assistance to the Virginia Tech community. Also, cheers to Nichol for his sweat-soaked toast at the King and Queen Ball. It was enjoyable and memorable, even though some of us can’t remember it.

Jeers to President Nichol for his misguided, clandestine decision to remove the Wren cross without consulting the campus community.

Cheers to the Student Assembly senate for passing a bill to provide free blue books to students.

Jeers to the senate for doing little else.

Cheers to UCAB for its yellow shirts and providing The Flat Hat with a feature photo during its game night.

Jeers to UCAB for My Chemical Romance, wasting student funds and slaughtering everyone’s hope for a successful spring concert.

Cheers to the city of Williamsburg for ...

Jeers to the city of Williamsburg for, well, everything. Specifically, the City Council’s anti-student behavior, the zoning administration’s eviction warnings to students, the almost impossible task of registering to vote in Williamsburg and the city’s refusal to abandon ship on the three-person housing rule.

Cheers to Unit K.

Jeers to Unit L.

Cheers to Ukrop’s — the store.

Jeers to Ukrop Drive.

Cheers to McGlothlin-Street Hall for being an above-average academic building.

Jeers to Jim McGlothlin for being a below-average alumnus — \$12 million below average.

Cheers to junior Shariff Tanious for proposing a bill that would have dissolved the SA senate.

Jeers to Tanious for consistently being a horrendously ineffective senator who received an “F” on The Flat Hat’s senate report card, and who spends his time playing computer games during senate meetings. Vote Matt Brown for Class of 2008 vice president for advocacy.

Cheers to Queen Elizabeth II for gracing campus with her presence this Friday and getting classes canceled.

Jeers to Prince Charles.

Cheers to the men’s cross country, women’s tennis, women’s swimming and women’s soccer teams for their successful seasons.

Jeers to the NCAA for plucking the College’s feathers, despite the presence of several more offensive mascots and symbols in college athletics.

Cheers to the new parking garage.

Jeers to the rising cost of parking stickers and overpriced tickets, as well as the parking services personnel in general.

Cheers to the admissions office for continuing efforts to diversify campus.

Jeers to the admissions office for not being forthcoming and timely with its statistics.

Cheers to the new online housing lottery.

Jeers to the excessive number of students bumped this year. Along these same lines, jeers to the College and Residence Life for not providing other suitable housing options.

Cheers to alcohol and alcohol amnesty.

Jeers to the campus alcohol policy in general.

Cheers to summer. We’ll see you in the fall.

Go Tribe. Hark Upon the Gale.

The Flat Hat welcomes submissions to the Opinions section. Letters to the Editor and Opinions columns are due at 5 p.m. Sunday for publication the following Tuesday and at 5 p.m. Wednesday for the following Friday. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced, and must include the author’s name, telephone number and any relevant titles or affiliations with campus or national groups. Letters may be no more than 300 words; columns may not be less than 500 words nor more than 700. Letters must be e-mailed to opinions@flathatnews.com. The Flat Hat reserves the right to edit all material. Because of space limitations, The Flat Hat may not publish all submissions. The Flat Hat Editorial Board meets before each issue to discuss the position taken by editorials. Unsigned editorials are written by a designated member of the Editorial Board. All Board editorials reflect the consensus of the Editorial Board. Letters, columns, graphics and cartoons reflect the view of the author only.

Blowout basics

The anticipated arrival of the Queen has stirred many dubious emotions here at the College. With the last day of classes canceled, entire curricula are thrown off, last-gasp readings and assignments are thrown out the window or due early, review sessions marginalized, course evaluations are trivialized. But this is nothing when compared to the main concern on everyone’s mind: Blowout.

Because of the Queen’s presence on campus, the College wants to ensure that Friday’s ceremony will be a sober one. Blowout has unofficially been pushed back to Thursday, but for many students it will simply spill into Friday, Queen or no Queen.

Blowout didn’t always epitomize a day without consequences. Indeed, Blowout started out as a tradition among the seniors. The object was for graduating students to toast their favorite professors in class. It was a public event and it was fairly civilized. It wasn’t long before undergrads privatized the event, taking it into their dorm rooms and attending class drunk.

What administrators and professors realize is that, much to their dismay, Blowout has become as sound a tradition at the college as Convocation, the Yule Log Ceremony and the Triathlon. The events of this Thursday are inevitable, but before the Queen? There’s an element of excitement in going to class drunk, but can you imagine the consequences of shouting in the middle of the Queen’s speech?

Beginning Thursday at 9 a.m., Residence Life (including resident advisors and area directors) will make rounds in their respective quarters, walking their buildings’ halls, crossing each room on the half-hour, every half-hour, until 7 p.m.

In discussing the matter with a friend, there was mention of an administrative “crackdown” on this semester’s Blowout. Over the years, the drunken ceremony has translated into record-breaking write-ups and trips to the health center. It is highly unlikely a student will be charged with a verbal warning for drinking— in all likelihood he or she will be written up. Depending on the sort of mayhem one chooses to engage in (i.e. streaking), one runs the high risk of facing probation, suspension or even expulsion.

More dreadful is the enormity of shame one feels when letting down his or her professor by stumbling into class drunk. The last thing you want

to do is show your worst possible face to your academic advisor at nine in the morning. I heard one sophomore had the audacity of throwing up in the middle of his philosophy class, the professor of which was the department chair.

I will go on record in supporting the tradition of Blowout. It’s fun, memorable and gives everyone an excuse to drink in the morning. So, as long as you don’t get shitfaced and utterly humiliate yourself in class, you can get away with a bust-up with some simple advice.

If you’re not too tipsy by the first few hours, make sure to get free doughnuts or pancakes, wherever they may be. A square meal will give you energy, decrease alcohol absorption, prevent you from passing out and potentially curb the next day’s hangover (generally, the greasier the better, I personally recommend a Philly cheese steak). Also, make sure to drink plenty of water. This goes without saying.

If your class is an important one, or if you have an ounce of respect for your instructor, go to class sober. Often, professors hold review sessions for the final exam on Blowout. Sober up

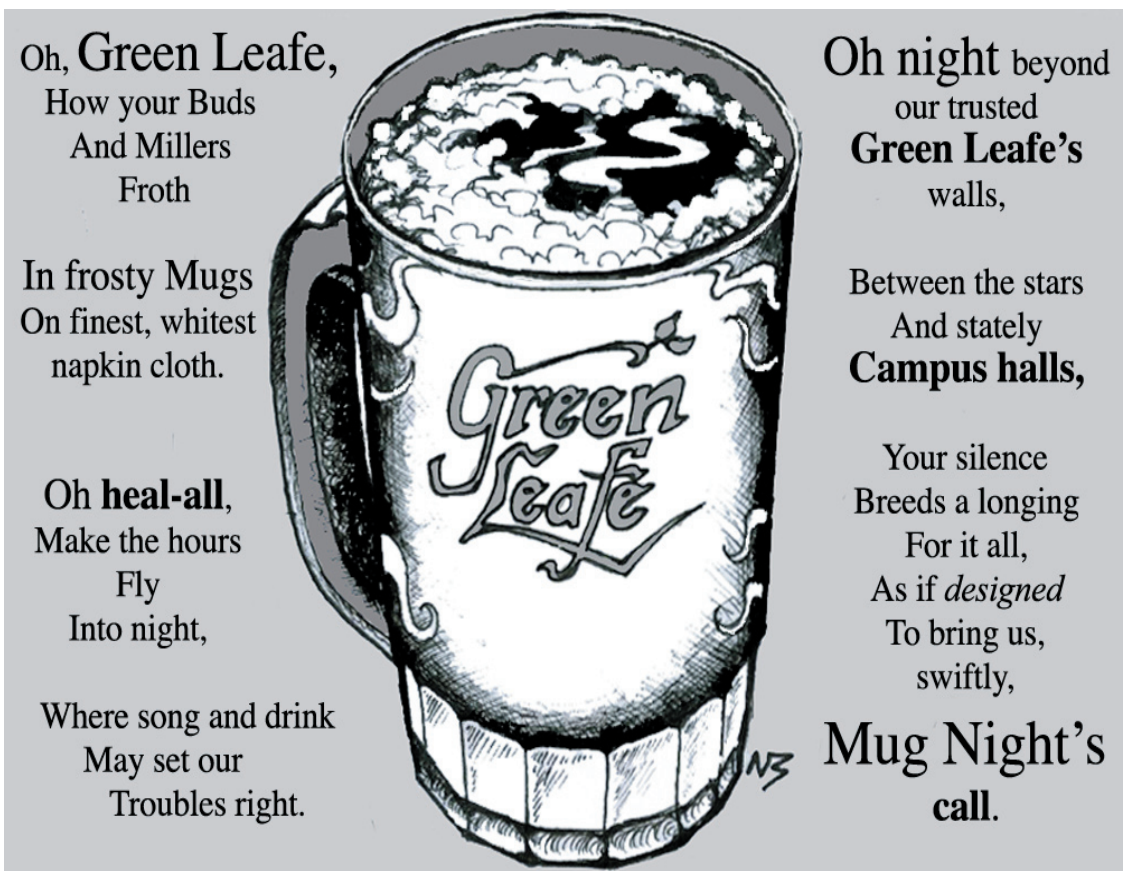
and take notes; you might actually learn something. Show up drunk, and you run the risk of losing a professor’s respect. The best thing to do would be to hold out until after classes, at which point the real parties begin, and your chances of getting caught diminish.

Undergrads should keep a low profile. Hide your glazed eyes behind a pair of aviators and keep your mouth shut — the whole world doesn’t need to know how twisted you may be. Take your party inside, but be smart about it. As RAs make their rounds, they will be on the lookout for any noise from within your room, from loud laughter to the soft, subtle bouncing of a pong ball.

Make sure to seal the base of your doors with a wet towel. This prevents the smell of alcohol from seeping into the halls. Open up your windows, but remember to keep the blinds shut. Every so often, spray your room liberally with Febreze.

If you’re a senior, I doubt you’ll even need to take my advice. As you take your senior walk to ring that bell with a buzz, just remember that the Queen will be here, and that this is the moment you’ve been working toward, the day your alcohol tolerance shall be tested to the utmost, the day in which you will be asked to put on a sober face for just one afternoon, then take it off again. Don’t get caught. Don’t let us down.

Sherif Abdelkarim, a sophomore at the College, is a staff columnist. His columns appear on Tuesdays.



By NATE BURGESS, FLAT HAT GRAPHICS EDITOR

Good riddance, seniors

My eighth grade gym teacher could make me do anything. She barked like a seal and had a body builder’s bulkiness to boot. In gym shorts and a T-shirt, I was terrified of every intimidating bulge.

“Let’s play some God damn soccer or else I’ll fail you.” I couldn’t argue with that logic.

Threatened with a bad grade, I will do almost anything for anyone. For that bulldog stare, I would have killed my fellow gym mates bare handed, no questions asked. Yet beneath that girth, my teacher once revealed genuine emotion. I can still remember the day. She blew her whistle to call the class in early.



James Damon

“Class, I just wanted to bring you in a little early to reveal some news I just heard.” Her voice was vicious, the way mine got when I was sick. “Is everything okay?” I asked sweetly. “Everything is not okay.” She tore off her sunglasses in one furious motion. “It’s Tom Cruise. He and his wife, Nicole Kidman, have separated.” No one said anything. “I’m sure they could just get back together,” I said. “No, they can’t. Nicole Kidman has already begun filing for divorce. Class dismissed.”

As I went back to the locker room, I was struck. First, by how gross my gym teacher’s face looked when it was scrunched up into a sob. Second, and more importantly, I was taken aback at how such a small change could affect her so profoundly. This was the same woman who shook the bleachers when she dropped her girth into a squat. She was so stony-faced all the time — I didn’t think she knew what emotion was.

However, I understand now that a pair of pro-

Losing friends makes me angry. It makes me want to scream and yell and make those senior punks run 13 laps around the softball field.

verbial sneaker laces tie us together. On that day, she was affected by change, albeit an inconsequential one. And today I, too, am bereaved by the prospect of impermanence. My friends are graduating this May, and when they leave I will be left alone.

I would be okay with losing my friends if friends were like everyday household appliances. I mean, if I lose my trusty pair of nose hair clippers, I can scour my room for an hour until I find them. If those clippers don’t appear and my nose hairs look particularly unbecoming, I can merely go to the store and buy another pair. Friends are nothing like nose hair trimmers, though; once they leave, they leave for good.

I know that people say friendships last a lifetime. Those people are full of bullshit. As much as I want to remain close to these graduating seniors, I doubt this is possible. People change and interests change. In 10 years, I will be a completely different person. Old friends have a place in our lives only because they remind us of the people we once were, the way that old pictures from elementary school remind me of my chubby-faced self.

So, instead of enshrouding myself in a cloak of grief, I think it would be for the best if I took another cue from my eighth grade gym teacher. Losing friends does not make me sad, it makes me angry. It makes me want to scream and yell and make those senior punks run 13 laps around the softball field. So, that’s just what I will do. “Get the hell out you fuckers,” I will scream. Get the hell out before we become better friends and your graduation hurts me even more.

James Damon, a sophomore at the College, is a staff columnist. His columns appear on Tuesdays.

Letters to the Editor

Inaccurate characterization of professor To the Editor:

A recent article that appeared in The Virginia Informer questioned the objectivity of Professor Peter Bechtold. Judging by its content, we believe that this article was not designed to inform the student body, but rather mount a personal attack against a very knowledgeable and professional faculty member. This semester, we have had the privilege of taking Professor Bechtold’s seminar on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

This article insinuates that Professor Bechtold holds biases against Israel, a very serious allegation. The author stated that the only assigned textbook for our seminar was Jimmy Carter’s controversial book, “Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid.” This claim is untrue, as our two assigned textbooks were Carter’s and Dennis Ross’ book, “The Missing Peace.” For our final essay, we are required to write a comparison of the two books, in which we are expected to criticize Carter’s writings when appropriate.

Additionally, we were given a list of 13 other books to reference. In class, we generally go over assignments and discuss research we have gathered from wide-ranging sources. This “article” exhibits a fundamental ignorance in the distinction between presenting a viewpoint and advocating or inculcating it.

The article employs the position of an unnamed student who refers to Professor Bechtold with hateful Nazi terminology. It attempted to appear objective by referencing two of our classmates, and alleged “supporters” of Professor Bechtold, seniors Sulaiman Bah and Walid Kildani. However, in our opinion, the author purposefully chose two students with Arabic names to portray the professor as someone only agreeable to a select group of people.

If the author meant that Professor Bechtold scrutinizes certain Israeli policy choices, as he

scrutinizes other governments’ choices, then they would be correct. The allegations made in this article were upsetting and disturbing because they questioned the objectivity of a professor who is concerned principally with inciting discussion and learning — not hatred or an agenda of any kind

— *Students of Professor Bechtold’s Arab-Israeli conflict seminar*

Response to gun control editorial To the Editor:

The editorial on “Common-sense gun control” in the April 27 issue of The Flat Hat started out to be a legitimate call for legislation to close a legal loophole that cost lives, and ended as a disgusting politicization of a tragedy. Shame on you.

If you had confined the editorial to the relevant facts of the matter, that a mentally disturbed individual was able to procure arms and ammunition because of a technicality, the editorial would have warranted respect and heed.

As it was, you not only sought to address this issue, but issues which do not even remotely pertain to this crime. Cho Seung-Hui was not wielding a machine gun or an automatic pistol, so why bring them up? Cho did not defeat any safety technologies to engage in his rampage, so why bring them up? Cho did not use an extraordinary number of weapons to commit murder — two pistols do not compare to the dozen handguns railed against in the editorial, so why are you making quantity an issue?

Keeping weapons out of the hands of psychologically distressed individuals is common sense. Respect for the dead and refraining from politicizing their deaths beyond the scope warranted is not common sense, it is common decency. Your lack of tact, poorly disguised bias and wonton politicization of the murders at Virginia Tech has lowered my estimation of The Flat Hat’s standards of journalism, and leaves me filled with disgust.

— *Andrew Nesbitt, ’09*

OUR CHEMICAL CONCERT



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT

My Chemical Romance performs at William and Mary Hall last Saturday. UCAB brought MCR to campus with the help of a concert promotion company in an attempt to make the College a prominent tour stop again.

Women’s studies raises sexual health awareness

By ELIZABETH DERBY
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

As finals rear their ugly heads, lines at the Swem Starbucks grow longer and under-eye circles darken. Sweating over PowerPoints and endless papers, students no doubt ask themselves: What does it all matter, anyway? Members of this semester’s introduction to women’s studies course used their class assignments to serve the campus community. Under the umbrella of the Community Action Project, students taking the course were divided into groups to design and implement informational projects on subjects relevant to campus women, including leadership and sexual health.

One group, consisting of juniors Ashley Slaff, Scott Kreider and Cassie Powers, sophomore Jaime Macadangdang and freshman Meredith Capone, chose to focus their efforts on disseminating information on issues surrounding women’s sexual health across campus. “We wanted to open a discussion on more topics than sexual assault,” Slaff explained. “There are many forums in which we learn

that it is okay to say ‘no’ to sex, but it is important for students to realize it’s also okay to say ‘yes.’ But if you choose to say yes, there is a lot you need to know. For example, students need learn where to get and how to use condoms.”

Subjects covered by the group’s informational materials included different STI prevention methods including proper prophylactic use and birth control options like the pill, the ring, the sponge and Plan B. “A lot of students don’t even know that Plan B is available at the health center,” Powers said. “It’s the cheapest local source, and a student doesn’t even need an appointment. You can just walk in with your ID to prove you are over 18 and back-up your birth control for just \$35. It’s also totally anonymous.”

While spreading information through op-eds and tacking condoms on dorm doors, the group discovered that reaching the student population was more difficult than they initially anticipated. “We tried to work with the administration to employ systemic change,” Macadangdang said. “But there have been roadblocks. We didn’t get a response from ResLife when we suggested providing

condoms for free in duty offices, and if we’d made a bulletin board for the health center, they might not have used it. The same was true when we suggested changes to the Freshman Orientation script; they just filmed a new one this year and don’t have the money to change it again.”

Members of the group suggested that many of the Community Action Programs have met with more success. One group, which chose to focus on human papilloma virus awareness, hosted a letter-writing and documentary campaign to spread knowledge of the new Gardasil vaccine. “It probably helped that they were able to work with VOX [Voices for Planned Parenthood],” Capone said. “I would classify our sexual health project as a successful failure. We learned a lot and accomplished some of our goals. We got condoms out there. But it feels like our work had no permanence.”

Crowded around their table of literature, free condoms and sponges, the group nodded in

agreement.

“One of the biggest problems is how difficult it can be to maintain awareness of all the events on campus,” Slaff said. “There are so many groups with events that aren’t advertised heavily enough — if you’re looking for it, like we have been, there are lots of great resources here.” She paused. “But at least you’re going to publish this. That helps. Also, remind people that flavored condoms are not supposed to be used for vaginal or anal sex. Flavored condoms are strictly for oral sex.”

Finals may be a stressful time for everyone, but nothing is worse than getting so caught up in schoolwork you forget to protect yourself and the ones you love. In case you missed the sexual health group’s projects, the health center offers free, anonymous HIV testing, Plan B, STI testing, GYN exams and appointments to begin birth control for just \$5. Free condoms, both flavored and unflavored, are available at the health center and the FISH Bowl in the Campus Center.



CONFUSION CORNER

The Queen’s arrival inspires aspirations for senior’s departure

Dear England,
Hey. I know we haven’t spoken in a while — and that is entirely my fault. Anyway, how the heck are you these days? I’m doing okay, but there is this one little nagging problem: my future. Oh, England, I know you already have enough on your plate, and the last thing you need is some blast from the past whining at you about her problems. But I think you could really help me out. Will you just listen for, like, five minutes? Thanks, England, you’re a pal.

Here’s the thing: I’m having what you might call a “tough time” with my post-graduation plans. You might call it that because you are my friend, but really, I am a fairly worthless human being (according to the job market and that wanker of a business magazine that came out in last week’s Flat Hat). I have no plans for after graduation.

However, I do manage to collect extremely worthy and accomplished friends (like you!), and one very special friend of mine will actually be visiting you for grad school in the fall. Isn’t that totally exciting? He’s really stoked to meet you — I’ve told him lots of great things. Anyway, since he’s going over there, and since I have nothing going for me over here (America and I are so over), I was hoping that maybe I could come visit you, too. Wouldn’t that be fun?

But England, dear, jolly, bonny England, you get so stand-offish when I ask you to let me visit. I can’t get permission to work — and contribute all of my countless and amazing skills to your economy — unless I already have a job with you. Question: Which of your wonderful countrymen will hire me if I’m not allowed to work? It’s a silly little catch-22 that I’m sure just snuck by you when you were making up rules. You

don’t really mean it, do you?
Think of what you’re missing out on by not letting me work for you. I know it might be weird at first — us being such good friends and all — but I believe in us, England. During those long, cold winter months, I can make you smile with my nonsensicalness (which my computer spellcheck says is an actual word. Rad.) and my inability to drink more than a pint of good dark beer without getting crunky. Delightful, no? I can also teach you wonderful American slang words, like crunky. Unfortunately, most of my slang dates back to the early nineties and the Ninja Turtles cartoons. It will be a bit of a challenge for you to sound hip saying things such as, “radical” and “gnarly,” but I think you can pull it off.

And to be fair, England, we are letting your Queen come here on Friday. She’s invading my home turf, walking down DoG Street, standing in the Wren courtyard — standing in the exact spot where I may have wanted to be standing on Friday, but I am being courteous and allowing her these liberties. Know why? Okay, maybe because I think this visiting “Queen” person might actually be Helen Mirren stunt-doubling for the actual Queen, and I think Ms. Mirren is fantastic. But I am also allowing this because I love you, England. I respect you, and I trust you and I believe that allowing your citizens (or citizen stunt-doubles) is good for both of us — and our friendship. I’m not worried that the Queen and her entourage will be mooching off of the local Williamsburg economy. I’m not concerned that she’s going to take my job (although a Queen-authored Confusion Corner might possibly be the greatest idea ever). I’m welcoming her with open arms. As my friend, I only ask that you do the same for me.

Write back soon! Kisses!
Lauren Bell, Esq.
Lauren Bell is a Confusion Corner columnist for The Flat Hat. We’ll miss her hip nineties slang and her use of Wikipedia as a verb.



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BY ELIZABETH DERBY
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

During the last weeks of senior year, few things are more depressing than the inevitable stint in Swem. Imagine the thrill of reprieve coupled with birds singing, blue skies and easy conversation and you get an idea of the joy that is time spent with Royce McAllister. Friendly, laid-back, with a greeting from nearly every passerby, That Guy is as down to Earth as he is charming. Here, he talks about Freshman Orientation, reviving a fraternity and combining business with service.

What are you doing next year?

I'll be working for General Electric in emerging business in the finance management program. It's a two-year program and you basically learn everything there is to know about finance. I rotate every six months to different locations, so in the next two years I could be anywhere from Oshkosh, Wis., to Atlanta, Ga., to Schenectady, N.Y., to Southern California to Nevada — Florence, Italy is a possible location. I move every six months to a new place, so it's a really good program. They do that so you can see different parts of the business; when you work for GE you can pretty much do anything.

What is it like being a business major?

Actually, when I interviewed, I tried to address this question, because I see myself as more of the anti-business business major. When I explained why I was a business major, it had to do with my service trips to Ghana and Southeast Asia where I got really interested in international development. A lot of areas of development have been spearheaded by people my age in

That Guy

Royce McAllister

finance. I guess I can see from the liberal arts standpoint (I'm an art history minor, too) why people might not like the business school. There are people in it who are there just to make money.

Tell me about your international service trips.

The first time I studied abroad was in Italy over the summer with William and Mary. I went to Ghana over spring break of my junior year on an international service trip for medical relief. Then this past winter break, I went to Southeast Asia, and that was with the business school, actually. It focused a lot on international development.

How is it being president of Alpha Phi Alpha?

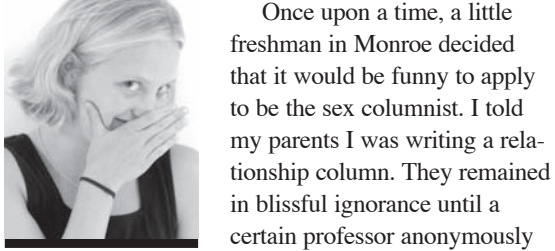
When I first started, I was the only new member coming in. Then in the fall we initiated two new members, and that is kind of when we got the ball rolling. There was a semester when it was just me — when I was the chapter, and it was ridiculous. This year we just continued our success with Outstanding Fraternity, with — drop, drop, drop — Greek man of the year and Excellence in Service and Support of Others again, and we won more awards at the district and regional levels again. We had numbers in the past or whatever, but because this is a historically black fraternity, well, there aren't many at this school, you know?

Where did you learn to step?

Stepping originated from way back in Africa, and through colonialism it came to the States. I didn't step until I was initiated into the fraternity, in spring 2004. I pretty much just learned from the guys ahead of me, and with my superior rhythm I was able to see the steps of men in other chapters of my fraternity. I was able to adapt them and do my own thing.

Closing the door one last time

With graduation rapidly approaching, I've been accumulating lasts. My last field trip for class. My last research paper. Last ultimate frisbee tournament. This week (I'm still not sure about what day), we have our last Blowout. And, inevitably, this is my last sex column. How can I say everything I need to say? If I tried to give advice, I might never stop writing. So instead, I'll climb down from my soapbox and tell you a story.



Kate
Prengaman

Once upon a time, a little freshman in Monroe decided that it would be funny to apply to be the sex columnist. I told my parents I was writing a relationship column. They remained in blissful ignorance until a certain professor anonymously sent them several of my more scandalous columns: "Bondage for beginners," "Halloween themed sex positions" and "Why women should masturbate." He also sent a note that suggested I was putting myself in danger on campus by being a public symbol of sexuality, and that I needed to learn that love should come first. Aside from that fact that he didn't know shit about what I knew about love, it was a low, sneaky blow in the fight to stop this column and this sex-positive dialogue, and it almost worked. My parents flipped out and I fumed with rage that a professor could behave so childishly as to tattle to my parents.

Luckily, most of the campus stood up for me after I wrote a column about the incident. People stopped me in the Sunken Garden and at the University Center, aghast at what had happened and supportive of my writing. So many people thanked me for writing as openly as I did that I gave up any notions of quitting. Sure, there have also been a few protests, letters to the editor and personal hate mail, and occasionally when I lived on campus, a few obscene late-night phone calls, which I was never sure if I should take as compliment or criticism. Damn, time has flown since then.

I realized that I had truly established myself at the start of sophomore year, when The Pillory printed a two-page spread mocking me and my column. At first I wanted to cry; they were being so mean to me. Then it occurred to me that if they wasted two pages on me, I must be pretty famous (and it was kind of funny). Since then, I've loved writing this column — it gives me an excuse to ask people ridiculously personal questions whenever I feel like it, and they usually answer.

Most of the time, I've felt like my writing hasn't had much of an effect on my private life, but when it has, it's usually hilarious. Like the couple who sat down next to me (not friends, mind you, strangers) late one night at a party and said, "Hey — you're the sex columnist, right? We need your help." Awkward. "He wants to

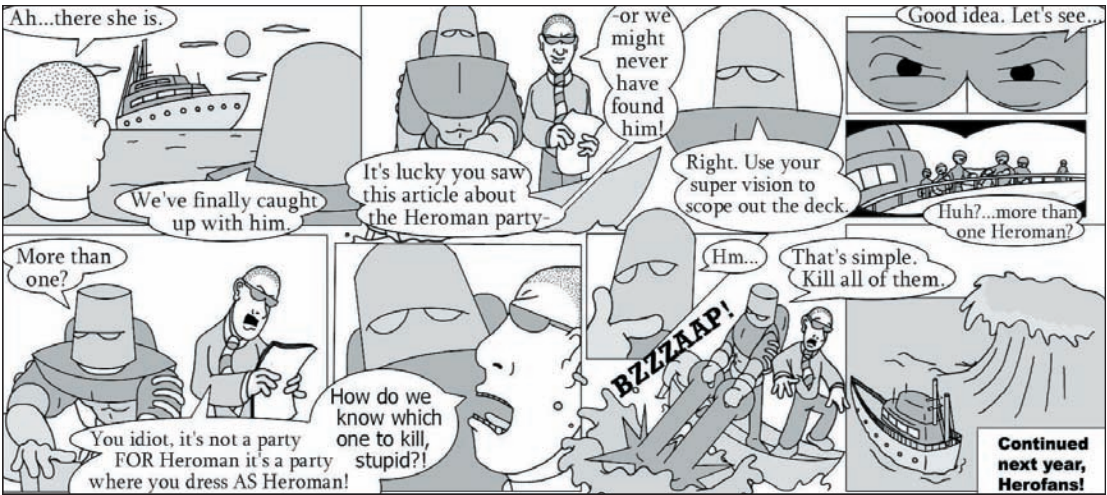


have butt sex, and I don't, what should we do?" Damn. Really awkward. The answer, for the record, is to make a deal that if he's going to put it in your butt, you get to put a similarly sized dildo in his — that usually brings the conversation to a level playing field.

I hate to end with a long list of thank yous, but they are more than overdue. I'd like to thank my trusted illustrator, Julia Snyder, who has been drawing scantily clad people in awkward situations for me since we first had the idea back in the fall of freshman year. Thanks to The Flat Hat for full license to operate under my discretion, as long as we didn't do anything literally pornographic, and standing by me through the Homecoming S&M column scandal, among other things. Thanks to the ultimate team, my Monroe hallmates, the lifeguards and anyone else who's been dragged into sex column conversations — you've been great fun.

This is like goodbye sex, I guess: bittersweet. Not the goodbye sex that was also hello sex — those brief experiences don't count in this category. I'm worried about this sex — the end of relationship sex, the we're graduating, we're moving apart, we're taking a break for the summer, we have both come to terms with the fact that our relationship is doomed, let's end it with a bang of passion sex. Goodbye sex is hot because it's emotional: happy and sad, distract-yourself-from-your-feelings-with-your-body kind of sex. You honor the best of what you had because, damn, for a while there it was really good and you'll never forget it. You focus on creating those memories to carry on: the smell of her hair, the smooth skin on his stomach, the way her breasts bounce when she's on top, the look in his eyes just before climax. With real goodbye sex, you're together, but already apart, too — in your mind and your memories. So, if you're smart, you'll make the most of your goodbye sex these next few weeks, walking away from a climax that you both know is closure. You savor every moment on the way there, because when it's over, it's over, and you know it.

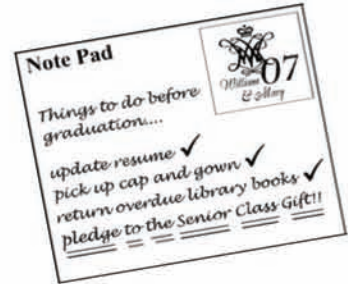
Kate Prengaman is the sex columnist for The Flat Hat. She's secretly enjoyed fielding your awkward sex questions.



Heroman

By Thomas Baumgardner

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Marion Preda *
Teri Preddy
Kathryn Prengaman *
Juliana Price
Renee Price
Samantha Quinn
Lauran Radebaugh
Crystal Rader *
Claudia Raezer *
Ravi Raghunathan *
Leah Ralph
Vandhana Rao
Sarah Rawlings
Sarah Reber *
Michael Reed
Eric Reeder *
Adam Reeves
Andrew Reeves
Hannah Reeves
Jonna Reinhardt
Robert Reitz, III
David Ridings
Robert Rittenhouse
Alanna Robinson *
Marnie Rognlien
Patricia Roman-Lagunas
Jean Rose *
Elyane Russell
Emily Russell *
Marc Russo *
Alejandro Saavedra *
Elizabeth Sadock
Laura Sauls *
Adam Scharup
Russell Schmidt
Colleen Schneider *
Jason Schoener
Andrew Schwarm *
Meredith Slater *
Ryan Scofield *
Jordan Scott *
John Seecley
Ryan Sells *
Tara Senn *
Pamela Sertzen *
Hakan Seyaloglu
Katherine Shields *
Jeremy Shifton
Hae Shin
Abigail Shockley *
Leslie Short
Jennifer Showker
David Sievers
Kristen Slack
Ashley Slaff *
Christopher Smith *
Bruce Smith *
Laura Smith *
Robin Smith
Melinda Snow *
Collette Southern *
Courtney St. Clair
Trevor Stanley
Andrew Starr
Stephanie Stephens *
Jill Stevenson *
Jean Mary Still
Gordon Stillman
Shawn Stocking
Susanah Stoessel
Emily Stollings
Ruth Strickland
Sarah Stroh
David Stults
Victor Sulkowski
Nicholas Summitt *
Jennifer Sykes *
Elyse Tadic *
Leigh Tally *

Priyanka Tandon *
Gregory Teich
Lauren Terrill *
Kathleen Tessarolo
Peter Thomas
Michelle Thorne
Susan Thornton
Meghan Townes
Monica Tremont
Tyler Trumbo
Stacy Tse
Christina Tucker
Randi Tucker
Kaitlin Turk
Kathryn Tydgat
Jamie Underdown
Fernando Valle
Jessica Van Opstal
Jessica Vance *
Sara Vanlear
Karen Vassar *
Cristine Velazco *
Michael Verbesey
Carol Visotsky
Meredith Von Roedern
Rachel Vorona *
Meghan Waldeck *
Amber Walker
Erin Walker
Kathryn Waller
Brian Walsh
Nicholas Walsh *
Matthew Warco *
Janet Watson *
Kathleen Watts
Dylan Waugh
Alan Wehler
Elizabeth Weiland *
Andrew Welch *
William Welch *
Kendra Wergin *
Patrick West *
Jacqueline Westley
Katherine White *
Laura Whittle
James Wiencek *
Megan Wiggins *
Brandon Williams *
Catherine Williams *
Kevin Williams
Laura Willing
Andrew Wilson
Bonnie Wilson *
Shelbi Wilson *
Michelle Wolf
Nora Wolf *
Brandon Wolfe
Jessica Wolfe
Patrick Wolfe
Adrienne Wong *
Helen Wong *
Katherine Woodley
Emmagene Worley
Elizabeth Wright *
Amy Wrisley *
Michael Wysong
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REVIEWS



COURTESY PHOTO • DOUBLEDAY

Palahniuk novel delights, disgusts

BY ALEX GUILLÉN
FLAT HAT ASSOC. REVIEWS EDITOR

Today's is a world desensitized and jaded, accepting images of teddy bears and car crashes as equal. However, Chuck Palahniuk, author of hit novels such as "Fight Club," stands apart from other contemporary authors because his novels can still cause revulsion and disgust among a generation raised on MTV. Consider his new novel, "Rant: An Oral Biography of Buster Casey," an excellent example of this ability.

"Rant" is written in a unique style, as an "oral biography," similar to George Plimpton's "Truman Capote." The novel is composed of quotes, drawn from dozens of fictional contributors and cobbled together as in a documentary. Notably (and appropriately) absent is the subject, Buster "Rant" Casey, although there are quotes from his mother, lover, friends and acquaintances, as well as experts in history and anthropology.

It seems as though nothing in the novel is ever stated clearly, and this was obviously intended by Palahniuk. Nothing is solid; everything, every person's account, is slightly different. Each person remembers events a certain way. Each person also brings unique information to the forefront, revealing facts about Rant that may never have been known otherwise.

The extent of Rant's doings is not entirely clear because of this ambiguity. Some things are made clear at the beginning: Rant was a rather deranged person. He infected many with rabies, although it's not clear how many. The tale is set in the near future.

That's it. Everything else is discovered slowly, throughout the book, in off-hand remarks, and usually has to be pieced together by linking several different accounts.

One thing that seems like a complete rip-off is the new form of entertainment everyone enjoys in the future. People have turned away from books and movies in favor of a new technology that is pretty much like "The Matrix." Everyone has "ports" in the back of their heads where they can plug in programs to run. The programs are created by "out-cording" or recording all of the sensory stimuli a person feels to be later re-experienced by the masses — an experience called "boosting a peak." One of the major characters, Shot Dunyan, was failed out of "neural transcription" school because his thesis project was too radical. He describes working in a rental shop and being angered by people renting out fluffy happy ending stories instead of edgier, darker ones. "Nobody wants to plug in and boost 10 hours of 'Getting Gun Shot in Wartime' or 'Last Minutes Alive: The Final Moments Aboard the World's Worst Airplane Crashes.' That shit, I love. My favorite part is one crash where the

See **PALAHNIUK** page 10

Summer blockbusters look to thrill

BY MOHAMMAD RAHMAN
FLAT HAT ONLINE EDITOR

With "Disturbia" topping last weekend's box office for the third straight week, the silver screen fell to its lowest point all year. After all the trash released this past month by executives, moviegoers are rejoicing as next week is the official start of the summer box office season. While most are accustomed to the traditional onslaught of big-budget, loud-in-every-way, summer blockbuster fares, this time of the year is also home to many of the year's best smaller films. Here is a diverse list of movies for you film aficionados that can't be missed this summer.

"Spider-Man 3" — The first 'Spider-Man' movie overcame all the odds and was a box office phenomenon. Here we are five years later and the third installment has arrived. The main reason for Spidey's success is the loyalty and dedication of those working with the project. To have anyone else but Sam Raimi direct future installments would be a crime, and to replace Tobey Maguire at this point would be a mistake as well. While many were skeptical at first of the skinny kid from "Pleasantville" becoming Spider-Man, it's come to the point where there is no one else that can be associated with the role. As for the film, everything about it screams "big." From three villains — Green Goblin, The Sandman and Venom — to a new love interest — Gwen Stacey played by Bryce Dallas Howard ("The Lady in the Water") — to an epic showdown that took a third of the reportedly \$258 million budget, "Spider-Man" is the first true comic book trilogy masterpiece. Release date — May 4.

"Rescue Dawn" — Christian Bale ("The Prestige") is hands-down one of the best actors in Hollywood today. His ability to become entranced in his role is scary at times. In this Vietnam War film, Bale plays a U.S. fighter pilot (a role for which he lost 55 pounds) whose plane is shot down over Laos and who is captured and put in a prisoner-of-war camp. His character attempts to lead all the POWs through a death-defying escape from the camp. With

a solid plotline and Bale leading the charge, this film promises to deliver plenty of excitement. Release date — July 4.

"Talk to Me" — Don Cheadle ("Hotel Rwanda") has been on a roll ever since his Oscar nomination two years ago, delivering scene stealing performances in all his films. In this new drama, set in the turbulent times of the 1960s, Cheadle plays "Petey" Greene, an outspoken ex-convict who goes on to become one of the most renowned talk show personalities of his generation. Greene is able to lend a voice to the black community and, with his daredevil attitude, is able to make changes. This film looks like the perfect counter-programming to the typical summer film, promising lots of laughs and lots of tears. Here's hoping Cheadle can snag another nomination for this role. Release date — July 13.

"The Simpsons" — While many have claimed that this modern day, American classic cartoon may have overstayed its welcome, there is no denying that fans have been clamoring for a feature-length film for years. The time is now upon us and, love them or hate them, the Simpsons will hold their place in American pop culture forever. All that is known about the plot is that Homer must save the world from a disaster he, himself, has created. The Simpsons have been able to be successful for a half-hour at a time, but will that translate into a 90-minute film? I believe so, if the writers are on top of their game. There is no reason for this film not to deliver the laughs of the summer. Release date — July 27.

"Halloween" — Being an avid Rob Zombie ("The Devil's Rejects") fan, I may be biased, but to say that this man does not know how to do horror would be blasphemy. Zombie has adapted John Carpenter's classic for the modern generation into a hybrid prequel-remake film. Early reports are saying that the film is darker, grittier and, of course, gorier than the original. Here's hoping the gore is not in place of the tension that made the first film great. Zombie's cast seems more than capable of honoring

See **SUMMER** page 10



COURTESY PHOTO • SONY

Tobey McGuire stars as Spider-Man in "Spider-Man 3," the third in the series of comic book blockbusters that have dominated previous summer box offices.



COURTESY PHOTO • 20TH CENTURY FOX

The Simpsons are finally coming to the big screen. The cartoon family will take on Hollywood in "The Simpsons Movie," to be released in late July.



COURTESY PHOTO • FOCUS

Don Cheadle stars as "Petey" Greene in "Talk to Me," the story about an ex-convict who becomes a famous radio personality, set in the '60s.

Prose suggests slowing down readings

BY CHRIS KAPLAN
THE FLAT HAT

Before there were creative writing classes, before there were expensive seminars led by literary luminaries, before there were CD-ROMs and writing manuals of suspect credibility claiming to help you sell that novel you've always wanted to write, there were, well, books. Okay, so those are still around, but for the masters of earlier ages, works of literature were the essential — and often only — source from which they learned the craft of writing. And though many also learned through more formal approaches to reading, in truth they obtained their most instructive knowledge through osmosis of the literary word alone.

As Francine Prose reminds us in her book, "Reading Like a Writer: A Guide For People Who Love Books and for Those Who Want to Write Them," released in paperback earlier this month, it is through the close reading of authors — the keen attention paid to their diction, sentence structure, narrative style and so on — that we absorb this knowledge and are taught the most formative of literary lessons. These are the original educators, and, as Prose rightly notes, "Who could [ask] for better teachers: generous, uncritical, blessed with wisdom and genius, as endlessly forgiving as only the dead can be?" Indeed, it makes sense that those who want to write like the

masters they admire should carefully pore over every aspect of their works. But learning to read closely — to really read like a writer — is a skill that needs to be learned, or rather re-learned.

We all begin learning how to read slowly, puzzling out those initially inscrutable signs on the page, letter by letter, word by word. Eventually, we get the hang of it and in time speed up for the sake of necessity and convenience. But so often, the demands of everyday life deprive us of the time to slow down again, to really understand what we're reading. We eventually forget that most essential approach — that slow, methodical and attentive one we first acquired so many years ago. Fortunately, "Reading like a Writer" acts as a reminder — and even a review of the basics of that lost art.

For those unfamiliar with Prose, she is not only an author of several fiction and nonfiction works such as "Blue Angel" and "Caravaggio: Painter

of Miracles," but is also an acclaimed professor of creative writing, having taught many sought-after programs at institutions such as Harvard University and Columbia University.

In this work, her experience certainly shows. After a brief recollection in the introduction about her own life of letters, she initiates a comprehensive survey of the craft's mechanics. Here, there are no lofty, abstract discussions on modernism or any other theorizing — just a clear, concise and methodical survey of authors most exemplary of skillful writing. Each chapter focuses on an aspect such as paragraphing and narration, and Prose eloquently reveals the depth of her own mastery as well as a critical eye for instructive examples on each area. In every chapter, she quotes passages from authors who have displayed particular skill with the topic at hand and then articulately explains why his or her approaches are so successful and

what can be learned from them. This method is well in line with the book's premise, as focusing heavily on actual texts forces the reader to immediately begin his or her reading re-education. The breadth of authors she refers to is expansive, ranging from Sophocles to John le Carré, with some surprising choices in between.

Prose's final two chapters diverge from the formula followed in most of the work. One is on the impact of Chekov on her own teaching style and the other on how reading great literature can give us the courage to write with confidence. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, she ends with a list of required reading titled, "Books to Be Read Immediately." This list seemingly spans the entire history of the literary tradition, but it looks as though Prose put careful thought into each recommendation, as it's an eclectic catalog. For works originally written in languages other than English, she also recommends specific translations.

Like Strunk and White's indispensable "Elements of Style" and its nonfiction-oriented counterpart "On Writing Well," by William Zinsser, 'Reading Like a Writer' will undoubtedly go down as another classic in the pantheon of pedagogical works on writing. It adds a fictional facet to a repertoire heavily focused on grammar and nonfiction

See **PROSE** page 10

CRITICAL CONDITION



Genice Phillips

The United States has always been known as a melting pot, a mixture of many cultures and ethnicities that have influenced different parts of American society and culture. Music has played a role in this, as many musical traditions imported from other countries have had a profound influence on the musical expression and identity of American music. African polyrhythms, British rock, reggae riddims, Spanish tinges — these elements of music from different parts of the world have always had a significant role in American music. Everyone knows or has at least heard of a few non-native music gods and their contribution to American popular music such as the Beatles, Carlos Santana, Bob Marley, the Rolling Stones and many more.

What is this phenomenon with musical artists from other countries? What is it about their flair that makes them immensely popular and allows them to surpass American musical artists? Let's take a look at a few non-native musicians of today that have come into American mainstream music and are doing better than American music

artists.

Starting in the Caribbean, Sean Paul, the reggae/dancehall artist from Kingston, Jamaica, has turned into an international success with his sophomore album, "Dutty Rock." His undeniably fresh and danceable beats spice up any party, with hits like "Gimme the Light," "Like Glue," "We Be Burnin'" and "Temperature" giving him the upper-hand in the reggae genre. Rihanna, another Caribbean native from Barbados, adds some charm and sweetness to pop and R&B music, tinged with Caribbean flavors and sassy lyrics.

Moving further into Latin America, with musical emphasis on syncopation and percussion, two Latino artists have rapped, sung and danced their way into mainstream music. Shakira, a Colombian singer-songwriter, has become a huge Latina star, enticing her audiences with intense vocals and fluid hips. Pitbull, who is technically from the Caribbean, is a Cuban native, whose music flows with rapid Spanish rhymes mixed with sexual come-ons and hip-hop influences.

From Africa, we have the Senegalese singer Akon, who takes on many musical roles as a producer, songwriter and rapper. When he's not smacking asses or dry-humping women on the floor, he has his own record label, making collaborations with American artists such as Gwen Stefani and Young Jeezy while using his sleek and handsome vocals to rep his homeland.

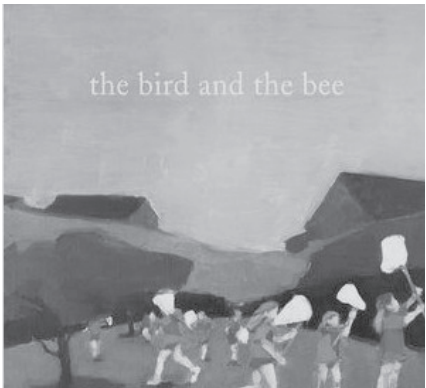
Now that we are no longer fighting the British, midnight rides are no longer needed. We are welcoming the Queen and rocking out to Queen at the same time. A plethora of British rock and other genres has been flowing through the United States for quite some time, and it hasn't stopped. From across the pond come artists such as Bloc Party, Coldplay, Joss Stone, Portishead, Oasis, Mika, Corinne Bailey Rae, Muse, The Chemical Brothers, Amy Winehouse, Radiohead, M.I.A. — and the list goes on.

What allows non-native musicians to become so successful in mainstream music here in the States is their abundance of creativity and uniqueness that makes them stand out.

Not to say that American musical artists are unsuccessful and have a lack of talent, but let's be honest, they all sound the same. We have boring, one-dimensional artists who care more about their celebrity title than creating a new sound, or becoming the next virtuoso in electric guitar. We'd rather sing like Paris Hilton (if anyone actually remembers her album), and put a spotlight on the image of a musician instead of relying on musical ability to push our music forward. Furthermore, artists from other countries add a new perspective on music itself. The lyrical content, the intricate rhythms and the instrumentation — it's all fresh. In fact, many American musical artists try to mimic and recreate where others are flourishing. We have to compete with these artists, and we are losing — terribly. It's a battle that we just can't win. And I don't want us to. Yeah, I have love for my country — just not for some of its music.

Genice Phillips is a sophomore at the College. Although she remembers Paris Hilton's album, she hopes to one day forget it with the help of electroshock therapy.

Foreign musicians succeed in America by virtue of not being American



Singled Out
The Bird and the Bee — “Fucking Boyfriend”
From the band’s self-titled album “The Bird and the Bee”

The Bird and the Bee recently gained fame after appearing on the “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno.” Singer Inara George and instrumentalist Greg Kurstin have successfully mixed jazz and electronica for a catchy tune.

— compiled by Alex Guillén

iTunes top 10 albums

1. *It Won't Be Soon Before Long* — Maroon 5
2. *Idol Gives Back Charity Album* — Various Artists
3. *Back to Black* — Amy Winehouse
4. *Favorite Worst Nightmare* — Arctic Monkeys
5. *Shock Value* — Timbaland
6. *The Best Damn Thing* — Avril Lavigne
7. *Daughtry* — Daughtry
8. *Some Hearts* — Carrie Underwood
9. *Year Zero* — Nine Inch Nails
10. *Ain't Nothin' Like Me* — Joe

HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP

A Simpson dumber than Homer
America’s creepiest father figure has a new strike against him. Joe Simpson, father of Jessica and Ashlee, is considering becoming the manager for none other than Britney Spears. Sources say the pop princesses’ dad is sick of living in his daughters’ shadows and his prerogative is to help Spears redeem her irresistible image. Reps for Jessica deny the rumor, but insist she would be okay with the arrangement. As they say, Britney’s toxic image means she’s hardly competition.



Paris Hilton the organ donor
In response to Paris Hilton’s drunk driving violations, New York sculptor Daniel Edwards has completed a piece entitled “Paris Hilton Autopsy.” The sculpture features the heiress lying as if thrown from a car accident, cell phone in hand. In keeping with the “Simple Life” star’s image, the statue is naked save for a jeweled tiara and meticulously placed Tinkerbell, who sports a matching tiara. The sculpture has an open abdominal cavity with removable innards to help emphasize the dangers of drunk driving.



Tyra learns there’s no free lunch
After a little misunderstanding, Tyra Banks has cleared her name. Last week, the supermodel and Def Jam founder Russell Simmons “inadvertently” left the Brooklyn Diner without paying a \$100 plus tab. After being called out on “The View,” Tyra paid the bill in full. The diner responded to her supreme act of generosity by making a donation to Tyra’s charity foundation, TZone, which aims to empower teen girls. Nothing says empowerment like a slick dine-and-dash.



He’ll bake your beans
Hugh Grant was arrested and later released on bail, and faces charges of assault after lashing out against a paparazzi photographer. When photographed during a morning jog, the “Music and Lyrics” star responded by pelting the photographer, Ian Whittaker, with a can of baked beans and repeatedly kicking him, before yelling, “I hope your kids die of fucking cancer.” Now there’s that British charm of American dreamz.

— compiled by Alice Hahn

Summer blockbusters hope to revitalize weak box office

SUMMER from page 9

the tradition of the “Halloween” films, however, to be fair, the last four “Halloween” films have been complete garbage (rapper Busta Rhymes starred in the last installment). Hopefully, Zombie can resurrect a once-dominant franchise. Release date — August 31.

Other films to watch out for in the summer are “Mr. Brooks,” starring Kevin Costner (“Field of Dreams”) as a successful businessman turned serial killer. Think “American Psycho” meets “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.” Then there’s “Evan Almighty,” the sequel to “Bruce Almighty,” which takes a completely different direction and focuses on the minor character of Evan (Steve Carell, “The Office”) as the main protagonist who has to build an Ark. Carell has had a lot of success the last few years and the studio is banking on his brand of comedy to sell a lot of tickets. With a reported price tag of over \$120 million, this film will be all over the place, if

anything.

John Cusack (“Must Love Dogs”) stars as a paranormal debunker in the Stephen King adaptation of “1408.” 1408 refers to the room number in a hotel where all of it’s residents have died in peculiar manners and now Cusack’s character has come to investigate. The last few Stephen King adaptations have been less than stellar, but with a solid cast, this should provide plenty of scares. “The Bourne Ultimatum” is the third film in the “Bourne” series, which has been a very nice alternative to the “Bond” series with its techno-European feel and realistic action sequences. It’s star, Matt Damon (“The Good Shepard”), has also seen his profile raised to a much higher level with these films. It’s too bad that he’s done after this one. With mostly everyone returning from the previous film including director Paul Greengrass (“United 93”), the third film promises more of the same in terms of action and suspense, but this time with the added knowledge that Jason Bourne (Damon) has fully recovered his memory and

now is out for vengeance.

Finally, there’s the summer’s typical fantasy entry in “Stardust.” Tristan, played by Charlie Cox (“Casanova”) must retrieve a fallen star from the magical realm in order to keep a promise to his beloved. Featuring a cast of Robert De Niro (“The Good Shepard”), Claire Danes (“The Family Stone”) and Michelle Pfeiffer (“What Lies Beneath”) and a big budget, “Stardust” could end up being this year’s “Lord of the Rings.”

So there you have it folks, just some of the films you shouldn’t miss this summer. There’s plenty more out there, but do watch out for drivel such as “Georgia Rule” and “Dead or Alive.” Aside from that, this looks to be one of the biggest summers in the history of the box office.

Prose teaches how to read

PROSE from page 9

styles, or one that otherwise just lectures and theorizes on fiction, such as E.M. Forster’s “Aspects of A Novel” and John Gardener’s “The Art of Fiction.” Prose’s book, on the other hand, uses a uniquely focused and practical approach to teaching the mechanics of fiction writing. Or rather, it teaches us how we can again teach ourselves by giving a second (or third or fourth) close look at the exemplars of good writing. So, for aspiring writers and dedicated readers alike, this work should be an essential addition to the bookshelf.

New Palahniuk novel absurd, genius

PALAHNIUK from page 9

witness has just started to out-cord his peak experience. He’s just switched to out-cord his transcript, and you can smell the jet fuel the moment before it flashes. You can taste the bourbon still in his mouth. The airplane seat belt so tight it cuts across your hips. The armrests are shaking under your elbows, and your bones go stiff, all your joints grinding together inside tight muscle.”

Palahniuk’s style is at its best in ‘Rant.’ This is how the peers of Mary Shelley must have felt when they read “Frankenstein,” a novel that now doesn’t inspire fear at all. It’s literature at its most influential, creating strong emotional and sensual reactions in the reader.

Rant is a complex and multifarious individual — an understatement once you’ve read the final chapters. His childhood was one destined to make him the horribly odd person he becomes. His mother was only 13 years old at his birth, and his grandmother prophesied that he was the spawn of the devil. As a child he spent his

time sticking his hands and legs into holes in hopes of being bitten by poisonous spiders, coyotes and raccoons. The first time he was bitten was while he searched for Easter eggs in his mother’s garden. He was bitten by a black widow, but his father denied him medical treatment. Although he didn’t die from the bite, he did experience an odd side effect: his first erection. From then on, Rant associated poison with sex. He contracted rabies so many times and spread it to so many people that he created a new epidemic.

The future created by Palahniuk is bleak. People are “time-segregated” into Daytimers and Nighttimers. Eventually all Nighttimers become infected with

rabies either directly or indirectly through Rant. Some Nighttimers have become members of a pseudo-secret society that spends its time in a demolition derby called Party Crashing. They drive around, searching for other Party Crashers to ram into. But this seemingly innocent game carries a shocking purpose.

The ending is, sadly, rather anticlimactic and reminiscent of the ending of Gabriel García Márquez’s “One Hundred Years of Solitude.” The reader is left wondering about the many loose ends that Palahniuk leaves hanging. Although it’s an excellent work, ‘Rant’ would be better read by fans of Palahniuk, as his style is simply too radical for new readers.

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SUMMER IN MAINE

Male and Females
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Clark’s year in review

YEAR IN REVIEW *from page 12*

producing a single new thing, he does a countdown of the top five (however I choose to define them) moments of the preceding year.

5. Jewel Fans Go Berserk — In the wake of the Kappa Alpha Theta 5k Race for charity, I decided to write an article chronicling my overblown, satirical experience in the competition. In the article I asserted, rather sarcastically, that I placed second because a Jewel song was playing as I sprinted to the finish line, distracting me from the win. At that point, I may or may not have called Jewel a bimbo. The article was promptly posted on a Jewel fansite forum by an anonymous Flat Hat reader (who deserves a medal for what follows). I was immediately struck with mixed feelings of great joy and sadness as I read the 21 venomous comments. Joy, because of how hysterically funny the commenters were, unbeknownst to themselves, and sadness with the knowledge that I will never write something that funny. Ever. No more commentary necessary. What follows are a few of my favorite comments, unedited: jaysantana wrote, “you are seriously a morron for putting the blame on Jewel and then calling her a bimbo. Your the Bimbo.” Santino wrote “You, sir, have no right to impune your falsifications and misguided opinion on a musical artist who has more money than you could actually spend,” and “Go bury your head in the sand somewhere, because these people want your head, and if you aren’t careful, it may just be fed to them.” These are just a couple gems. Because of them, however, I’ve realized that Jewel is the greatest musical genius of all time. For serious, if Beethoven was a female hippie that used to live in a van, he’d look more or less like Jewel (just kidding, but I thought I’d throw that in there — Jewel fans don’t speak sarcasm). For the full story, check it out online.

4. Tribe Feathers Get Clipped — I don’t mean to say that this was a highlight, only that this was one of the most important stories of the year. The idea that some committee can come to the College and tell the administration the degree to which they’re allowed to offend

Native Americans is ridiculous. Either change the Indian theme altogether, or realize that a few feathers is the least of anyone’s problems.

3. 6th Man A Huge Success — Traditionally, students here at the College haven’t cared about basketball. In fact, last year most students couldn’t find the basketball court if you took them to the top of William and Mary Hall and then pushed them down the stairs. This year, thanks to the 6th Man Apparel Program, students showed up in record numbers. Finally, a little Tribe Pride leaked past November.

2 and 1. Women’s Tennis and Men’s Cross Country Rank Highly In NCAA — We go to William & Mary. Let me repeat that — William & Mary. A few distinctions set us apart from the average school. For example, we have academic standards, even when it comes to athletes. Also, our campus holds a little over 5,000 undergraduate students. That’s it. You could fit four of us into one Virginia Tech, and it would take seven to equal the double-National Champion Florida Gators. Despite that, the women’s tennis and men’s cross country teams took their spots among the best programs in the country.

The women’s tennis team hasn’t finished their season yet, so little can be said for sure, but the consistency of this year’s squad suggests that they’ll be capable of holding their no. 13 ranking come nationals. Senior Megan Moulton-Levy, who earned All-American honors last year, and sophomore doubles partner Katarina Zoricic have clawed their way to the no. 1 position in the country, leading their team to their current position.

The men’s cross country team raced to eighth place in the country, improving 11 spots on their national ranking going into the championships and earning the second-best finish in school history. Led by junior Christo Landry’s All-American performance, the entire team packed closely together to vault ahead of some highly lauded programs — a position that the team will no doubt look to recapture in the fall.

Brad Clark is a sports columnist for The Flat Hat.

Baseball falls to seventh in CAA

BASEBALL *from page 12*

tried running from home plate to second following a ball-four wild pitch. Park got to the ball swiftly, fired a strike to senior second baseman Brent McWhorter and caught Batts in a run-down between first and second for the final out.

The Tribe capitalized on the momentum shift immediately, as McWhorter led off the bottom half of the first with a single, moved to second on a Park sacrifice bunt, and scored two batters later on senior third baseman Greg Sexton’s sacrifice fly. The College would push across one more run in the inning to take an early 2-0 advantage.

The Tribe struck again twice in the fifth and once more in the eighth to stretch the lead to five runs as Vernon continued to mow down Seahawks, facing no more than four batters an inning from the second until the ninth.

“Coming off of a really tough weekend at [Virginia Commonwealth University], we just wanted to, as a pitching staff, come in

here and set a tone for the weekend and give our offense a chance,” Vernon said.

While the weekend got off to a promising start for the Tribe, it would not end that way. Freshman pitcher Kevin Landry started game two of the doubleheader Saturday and got shelled immediately. Landry, whose record fell to 4-5, lasted only 1.1 innings and surrendered seven runs, all earned, as the College fell into an early hole. By the time the Tribe came to bat in the bottom of the third, UNCW led 10-0 en route to a 14-5 Seahawk victory.

The rubber match held large playoff implications, as the two schools entered the final game of their weekend set tied for fifth in the CAA standings. The Seahawks, propelled by yet another offensive outburst, jumped ahead of the Tribe early for the second time in as many games Sunday, scoring six runs in the first inning, five more in the second and an additional four in the fifth. While the Tribe did manage 12 hits on the afternoon, the College failed to score a run until the eighth inning, when the game was well out

of reach.

“We actually hit pretty well [today], we just didn’t get them all bunched,” Park said. “We are usually pretty good about that. When we get runners on, we move them over and score them; we just struggled with that today.”

Losing two to UNCW is a setback in the Tribe’s pursuit of a playoff spot, but with six games remaining in the season, the team is not ready to throw in the towel just yet.

“We can’t give up, we’ve got to keep trying,” Park said. “We are still in good shape. If we win our next two series, we should be able to make the playoffs. So we just got to go there and take care of business.”

The College will travel to the University of Delaware next weekend to battle the Blue Hens. Delaware currently stands third in the CAA, but a sweep by the Tribe over the weekend would push the College ahead of Delaware and help secure a spot in the playoffs.

The Tribe faces George Washington University today at 7 p.m. at Plumeri Park.

Triathlon club returns to College

TRIATHLON *from page 12*

200+ pounds in 5 hours and 11 minutes.

June 10, Anderson and several other members of the Triathlon team will compete in the local Yorktown Sprint Triathlon, which involves swimming 750 meters, biking for 13.5 miles and a 5k run. The sprint distance is the shortest of four triathlon distances, which include Olympic, half Ironman and Ironman. While longer events require greater endurance, sprint triathlons are all about speed.

“I have some speed, but not a lot. It’s really difficult for the way I’m built to do short races,” said Bartlett, who is skipping the Yorktown Sprint to train for a different event.

Anderson competed in the Yorktown Sprint last year and said his training in the next few weeks will be focused on getting his body ready for a faster-paced race.

Bartlett’s goal is to qualify for the Ironman Hawaii World Championship next year, but in order to do so he must earn first or second place in his age group at the Buffalo Springs

Lake Half Ironman in Lubbock, Texas June 23. The half Ironman event consists of a 1.2-mile swim, 56-mile bike ride, and 13.1-mile run (half-marathon).

“I think I have a shot at it,” he said. “I need to get in more quality training time.” Bartlett pointed to the difficulty of balancing work, a part-time job and training.

“In this sport, all the professionals do is eat, sleep and train. College students who try to compete don’t have that opportunity,” he said. “I never get enough sleep.”

While he thinks he has a good chance of doing well at the Buffalo Springs Lake Half Ironman event, finding the time to train the necessary 3-4 hours a day will be his biggest obstacle.

Anderson also said training for a triathlon as a full-time student is a feat in itself.

Six people train year round for Club Triathlon, while several dozen more have expressed interest in competing, according to Anderson. Most of the training is done on an individual basis, with some group swim training and partner bike training.

“A lot of the training involves longer

workouts and a lot of it involves doing a block of run and bike, then bike and swim back to back,” sophomore Chuck Feerick said, who will be competing at the Yorktown Sprint. “Most days you do two to three disciplines.”

Currently the team receives no funding, and everything from entry fees in competitions to equipment is paid in full by the athletes. Costs for a competitive bike can run anywhere from \$500 to \$8,000, and wet suits for swimming range from \$200 to \$400. “It’s one of the more expensive sports out there with all the complicated equipment,” Anderson said.

Triathletes can also receive sponsorships if they have good enough results to get noticed, Bartlett said, who currently has a coaching scholarship from May through October. His coach talks to him over the phone and via e-mail, giving training plans and other advice, but does not meet with him in person.

While members of Club Triathlon often train together, the real beauty of the sport is its individual nature.

“You’re not pushing anybody but yourself,” Bartlett said. “You don’t have to live up to anybody’s standards but your own.”

FROM THE SIDELINES

NBA Draft debate: Should teams take Durant or Oden first overall?

The case for Durant

With both Texas forward Kevin Durant and Ohio State center Greg Oden having now declared for the 2007 NBA Draft, the debate over who should be picked no. 1 is now well underway. While a solid case could be made for either player, Durant is clearly the better selection.

Durant emerged this year as a game-changing performer, taking over for his team right when they needed him. His jump shot is lights out from any distance, his mid-range game is solid and he can get to the rim practically at will. His defense certainly needs some improvement, but someone with his length (6 feet 10 inches tall) has the natural tools to make an impact on the defensive side of the ball.

Oden certainly has plenty of good things going for him. At 7’, 280 lbs, he is a true center — a rare find in the NBA. He can change a game defensively with his shot-blocking presence, and the tremendous strides he made offensively this season show his potential to become a big-time scorer as well.

But Oden also displayed some troubling tendencies during the NCAA Tournament, losing his cool at key points by committing careless fouls and not stepping up when his team needed him most, leaving it instead to guards Mike Conley and Ron Lewis. While Durant’s Texas squad suffered an earlier than expected second-round loss at the hands of USC, Durant proved all year long that he was the go-to guy for the Longhorns, often carrying his team to victories.

One argument that will be made before the draft is that while talented swingmen like Durant come around often, skilled centers like Oden are a rarity. While there is certainly truth to this, it must be noted that Durant is not your run-of-the-mill swingman. He is the type of player who only comes around once in a blue moon, a pure scorer with three-point range and the competitive spirit to put a team on his back. Oden would be one hell of a player to have on your team, someone you could put talented guards around and field a very competitive team, but Durant would instantly lift your team. Teams should not let the big versus small arguments sway them too much one way.

Whoever grabs the top pick via the NBA’s lottery system (the Memphis Grizzlies, Boston Celtics and Milwaukee Bucks, in that order, have the best chances), they should disregard team personnel and other factors and simply take the best player available in the draft — Kevin Durant. The good news for the team with the second pick is that Oden’s no slouch either.

Jeff Dooley is the sports editor for The Flat Hat.

The case for Oden

The past year in College basketball saw the implementation of the NBA’s new age limit. The result has been two of the most talented college basketball players in recent memory — Ohio State center Greg Oden and Texas forward Kevin Durant. It is almost a foregone conclusion that these two will be selected first and second in this year’s NBA draft, and while the selection order will be contingent on what mediocre franchise wins the May 22 lottery, Greg Oden should and will be the first player taken.

This is not to take anything away from Durant, whose 25.1 points per game were tops in the Big 12, and who was consistently the nation’s most exciting player. However, Oden’s talent level and potential for development are downright scary. He is one of few players in this day and age who is a true center. He is a menacing presence on defense, leading the Big Ten in blocks and rebounds, and was a dominating force for Ohio State, despite playing half the season with only one good hand.

The obvious case for Oden is that he has the potential to develop into the game’s next great big man. While it was potential that led the Pistons to select Darko Milicic with the second pick in the 2003 draft — passing on Carmelo Anthony, Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade — this situation is entirely different. Oden has emerged from some of the most intense competition in the country. Despite foul trouble and fatigue issues during the NCAA tournament, Oden’s performance on basketball’s biggest stage — 25 points and 12 rebounds in 38 minutes of play during the Buckeyes’ 75-84 defeat at the hands of Florida in the NCAA championship game— showcased that he is not only ready for the NBA, but ready to step into the starting role for just about any team.

The teams most likely to draw the first pick in the lottery are Memphis and Boston, though several other cellar-dwellers also have a shot. The Grizzlies, with the inside presence of Pau Gasol, might at first-glance be inclined to take Durant, but the mere prospect of Gasol playing alongside Oden is frightening, and would make them instant contenders in the Western Conference. The Celtics, and just about any other team in the lottery, would reap the benefits of a dominant big man that has been compared to Patrick Ewing and Tim Duncan. Durant will be taken second, and both will see significant minutes and contend for rookie of the year honors.




Alex Ely is the editorial writer for The Flat Hat.

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1st annual Flat Hat sports awards

Men's first team

MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Adam Payton, Basketball, Senior

Payton gets the nod as this year's Male Athlete of the Year not only for his impressive stat line (13.8 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 1.7 spg), but for the leadership he brought men's basketball this season. As one of only two seniors on one of the College's most traditionally unsuccessful teams, he carried his team through their biggest games, willing them ahead in their first-round CAA tournament game against Georgia State University, before a half-court heave at the buzzer sent them to defeat. Tribe men's basketball made tremendous strides this season, finishing with a 15-15 record and knocking off competitive teams like Drexel University and George Mason University. Most importantly, he helped bring an excitement (along with the 6th Man Program) to a program that sorely needed improved fan support. The Tribe look poised to make another big step next year, perhaps approaching the upper echelon of the CAA, and if they do, they'll have Payton to thank for getting the ball rolling.

Greg Sexton, Baseball, Senior

Through this weekend's series against UNCW, Sexton has a .434 batting average, 9 HR, 50 RBI, 15 doubles and 3 triples. He holds school records for career hits, doubles and total bases, and is on pace to set records in RBIs and games played.

Keith Bechtol, XC and Track, Senior

The anchor for a cross country team that finished in eighth place at the NCAA Championships has had an impressive spring track season as well. Currently ranks third all-time at the College in the 10,000-meter run. Also a Phi Beta Kappa.

Elijah Brooks, Football, Senior

931 rushing yards, 5.1 yards per carry, and 8 touchdowns on the year. Finished his career in sixth place on the College's all-time rushing yards list despite playing only three seasons for the College.

MEN'S SECOND TEAM

Alex Cojanu, Tennis, Junior
Christo Landry, XC and Track, Junior
Andrew Hoxie, Soccer, Sophomore
Cody Morris, Football, Senior

All-Tribe

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Men's Cross Country

Following a string of disappointing finishes at the NCAA Championships, the Tribe rose to the occasion last November and captured eighth place — the second-highest finish in College history. Junior Christo Landry led the Tribe, placing 34th and earning his second All-American award. Head Coach Alex Gibby also guided the College to its seventh consecutive CAA title, a runner-up finish at the NCAA Southeast Regional meet and its first IC4A championship in 24 years.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Kevin Epley, Women's Tennis

Whether you want to applaud him for the abundance of talent he pulls in every year through recruiting, or his skill in getting his players to perform to their potential, Epley's results cannot be ignored: 20-2 record this spring, CAA tournament championship, doubles national championship for Moulton-Levy and Zoricic this winter and heading into this month's NCAA tournament, his squad is a legitimate contender for the title.

By Jeff Dooley and Andrew Pike. Payton and Moulton-Levy photos by Alex Haglund, The Flat Hat. Headshots courtesy William and Mary Sports Information. Epley photo courtesy www.TribeAthletics.com. Men's cross country photo courtesy Randy Hawthorne.

Women's first team

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Megan Moulton-Levy, Tennis, Senior

During a year filled with outstanding performances from many of the Tribe's female athletes, Moulton-Levy stood head and shoulders above the rest. The captain and leader of a team that has been highly ranked all year long (currently no. 13 in the country), she has excelled in both singles and doubles play. Ranked seventh nationally, she has a record of 28-6 for the year in singles, while playing in the no. 1 singles slot the entire time. She and doubles partner sophomore Katarina Zoricic won the ITA National Indoor Championships this winter, have gone 38-2 on the year and are currently ranked no. 1 in the nation. She is a dynamic, exciting player who uses her exceptional athleticism to track down shot after shot, pressuring her opponents into defeat. In May 2006, she received the national Arthur Ashe Award for Leadership and Sportsmanship, a telling tribute to her work ethic and character. The impact she has left on Tribe tennis and Tribe sports as a whole is incalculable, and in 2006-2007, there was no one better.



Katie Radloff, Swimming, Freshman

Helped lead College swimming to its first-ever CAA championship; named mid-major All-American. Became the first Tribe swimmer since 1983 and second in program history to compete at the NCAA Championships.

Claire Zimmeck, Soccer, Sophomore

Her 14 goals and 4 assists brought her CAA player of the year, Soccer Buzz All-American and VaSID player of the year honors. Earned multiple national player of the week awards after netting three game-winning goals in three straight games.

Kyra Kaylor, Basketball, Junior

Her 14.8 ppg and 9.1 rpg helped lead the Tribe to a 19-12 finish and their second-most victories in history. Selected to All-CAA First Team, Richmond Times-Dispatch All-State First Team and VaSID All-State Second Team.

WOMEN'S SECOND TEAM

Meghan Bishop, XC and Track, Senior
Gina Cimarelli, Field Hockey, Senior
Danielle Collins, Soccer, Sophomore
Katarina Zoricic, Tennis, Sophomore

HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE

Our columnist looks back at the year that was

When I sat down to write my final column of the year, I had a few ideas kicking around about what I should do. At first I thought I'd write about my intramural soccer team — Team So-Good-It's-Scary — about our heartbreakingly premature exit from the playoffs, and the lessons we learned that transcend the win-loss column and allow us all to lead richer, more fulfilling lives (lessons such as how to rationalize soul-crushing losses into "moral victories" — which we all know don't exist). Then I realized that I'd already written that article (see Feb.

24 and Nov. 3 issues) about dodgeball and indoor soccer, respectively. Then I thought I'd write about our women's soccer team, insinuating that their precipitous drop in rank at the end of the season had something to do with the entire feather scandal from earlier this year. But I had already written about a massive conspiracy against our feathers as well (Sept. 15). An article about the luxuries of the Rec Center? Done it (Sept. 9). A column which makes a passing stab at a nineties folk-singer, causing legions of her loyal and humorless fans to descend upon the Flat Hat website and make a series of nasty and misspelled comments? Amazingly enough, it happened (April 10). So, when one runs into the situation of having written every single type of article possible, does the columnist shun the previous forms and create an entirely original work which people will echo throughout the ages? Rather, bravely following in the footsteps of those pioneers at VH1 who seem to have created several million hours worth of shows without ever

See YEAR IN REVIEW page 11

BASEBALL: UNCW 19, TRIBE 1

College drops two

Conference losses hurt team's playoff chances

BY MILES HILDER
FLAT HAT ASSOC. SPORTS EDITOR

Rain postponed the opener of a three-game series between the College and the University of North Carolina-Wilmington at Plumeri Park Friday night. Junior pitcher Pete Vernon, who had been slated to start Friday, took the mound for the College Saturday afternoon to open a doubleheader against UNCW. The lefty pitched a complete game, shutting down a potent Seahawks lineup as the Tribe won the opener 5-0. But the College could not keep the UNCW bats silent for long, as the Seahawks exploded for 33 runs over the next two games, winning 14-5 Saturday night and 19-1 Sunday. Losing the series dropped the Tribe to 25-21 overall and 11-12 in the CAA.

Vernon, whose record improved to 7-4 on the season, efficiently moved through the Seahawk lineup Saturday, striking out four batters while allowing only three hits and four walks. His performance earned him CAA Pitcher of the Week honors.

"Pete [Vernon] was able to keep all the hitters off-balanced, he was able to mix all his pitches up and throw all his pitches for strikes," junior catcher Tim Park said. "He gave us a great game."

Vernon did have some trouble early on, allowing the first two batters he faced to reach base. The lefty settled down quickly, however, forcing the next batter into a double play. Vernon escaped the inning with help from a base-running gaff by UNCW's catcher Jonathan Batts, who

See BASEBALL page 11



JOSH ILLINGTON • THE FLAT HAT
Tribe baseball is now 25-21 overall and 11-12 in conference play.

SPORTS FEATURE

Swim, bike, run

College's Triathlon club returns to campus after four-year hiatus

BY CARL SIEGMUND
FLAT HAT ASSOC. NEWS EDITOR

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning at 6:30 a.m. you'll find sophomore Ben Bartlett swimming laps at the Rec Center pool. After his classes end in the afternoon, he'll trade his swimsuit for jogging shorts. Then on weekends, in between time spent at a part-time job, you'll see him on his bike, going on trips as long as 70 miles.

A member of the College's Club Triathlon team, which re-formed this past fall after a four-year hiatus, Bartlett's intense weekly training regiment is par for the course for anyone training for the one, two, three punch of swimming, running and biking that a triathlon packs.

Bartlett estimates that he spends 20 hours a week working part-time and 15-20 hours training in the three triathlon disciplines. Add school work into the mix and Bartlett's schedule is packed.

"It's unlike anything else," Bartlett said. "With the multi-sport lifestyle, you really have to find time to fit things in."

But all the sacrifices he's made have paid off. At a half Ironman event in April, Bartlett took third place overall and first in his age category (20-24) with a time of 4 hours and 18 minutes. Junior Jon Anderson, another member of the Club Triathlon team, qualified for a national competition in St. Louis after winning his Clydesdale weight category

See TRIATHLON page 11



COURTESY PHOTO • JON ANDERSON
A Triathlon club member crosses the finish line.